Use Context Clues

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

Name _____ Date _____

Read the text. Circle what the word means.

READ THIS FIRST

Hummingbirds: Tiny Fliers

Hummingbirds are the smallest birds in North America. Some weigh less than a nickel. Even so, they are some of the most agile fliers in the world. They can dart left, zoom right, and even fly backward without bumping into anything.

A hummingbird can also hover. That means it stays in one place in the air, like a helicopter. Its wings beat up to 80 times every second. They move so rapidly that they look like a blur. The fast wings make a humming sound, which is how the bird got its name.

Hummingbirds need a lot of energy. They sip nectar, a sweet liquid found inside flowers. A hummingbird visits hundreds of flowers each day. Its long, thin beak reaches deep inside each blossom.

Many hummingbirds are territorial. A male will guard his patch of flowers. He chases away other birds that come too close. He may even chase away bees!

In the fall, many hummingbirds migrate. They travel south to warmer places, such as Mexico and Central America. Some fly across the Gulf of Mexico without stopping. In the spring, they make the long trip back north.

You can help hummingbirds by planting bright flowers. Red and orange flowers shaped like tubes are their favorites. Then watch closely. These tiny birds are speedy, so you may only catch a glimpse!

1. What does glimpse mean in the last sentence?
   a quick look a long, close look a photograph

2. Hummingbirds are agile fliers. What does agile mean?
   very small and light
   able to move quickly and easily
   loud and noisy

3. What does hover mean?
   stay in one place in the air
   fly very far away
   land on a flower

4. What does territorial mean in this text?
   guarding an area and keeping others out
   friendly with other birds
   able to fly backward

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Answer Key - Grade 4 Reading Worksheet - Building Confidence

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