

Context Clues

Sometimes, you may come to a word that you have never heard. You might not have any idea what it means if you see it by itself. You can use context clues, or the clues from the rest of the sentence or sentences around the word to figure it out.

For example, read this text from chapter five, page 39:

*The house on Egypt Street became frantic with activity as the Tulane family prepared for their **voyage** to England.*

When reading this paragraph, you might not know what "voyage" is. You can use the clues from the story like: You know the family is getting on the Queen Mary and sailing to England. You also know that this is something they want to do, not something they are being forced to do. You can use all the clues from the text to help you figure out that voyage means trip.

Try some more! Read the texts from the story and tell what you think the underlined word means. Hint: You may need to go back and read more around the text if you do not have enough clues.

Page 58: In fact, Edward Tulane was so happy to be back among the living that he did not even take **umbrage** at being referred to as "it".

What do you think "umbrage" means and what clues made you think this?

Page 68: They lacked the **elegance** and artistry of his real clothes.

What do you think "elegance" means and what clues made you think this?

Page 69: It made him wonder if some of the **muck** from the ocean floor had gotten inside his china head and damaged him somehow.

What do you think "muck" means and what clues made you think this?
