Vocabulary in Context

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

Answer each question to show your understanding of the vocabulary words.

1. If a person is about to **erupt,** is that person angry or calm?
2. If I am **reluctant** to see a movie, have I heard good or bad things about it?
3. Does a baseball team **decisively** win a game by one run or six runs?
4. Do people show they are **agitated** by taking a nap or by yelling?
5. Would someone who is **melancholy** sit alone in a corner or dance?
6. Would you **atone** for an action that is praiseworthy or unlawful?

agitated

atone

decisively

erupt

melancholy

reluctant

VOCABULARY IN WRITING

Have you known or read about another loyal pet or animal? Write a paragraph identifying the animal and explaining how its actions show loyalty. Use two or more vocabulary words. Here is a sample beginning.

> **EXAMPLE SENTENCE**
>
> My pet rabbit Hoppy is **reluctant** to go outside unless I go with him.

VOCABULARY STRATEGY: LITERAL AND FIGURATIVE MEANINGS

The **literal** meaning of a word is its most common and basic definition. Over time, though, some words take on **figurative** meanings that expand the basic definition. For example, the literal meaning of *erupt* is "to explode from a volcano with fire and noise." Now *erupt* is also used figuratively to refer to a person or animal "exploding" with emotion. When you encounter words that have both a literal and figurative meaning, use context clues to help you recognize which meaning the writer intends.

PRACTICE Explain the figurative meaning of each boldfaced word. Then explain how this meaning relates to the word's literal meaning.

1. After the candidate's support increased, he won by a **landslide.**
2. The family created a warm **cocoon** of affection in which their children thrived.
3. Everyone relied on Mrs. Casey to be the **pillar** of the volunteer group.
4. The children **stampeded** out of the classroom, happy that the school day was over.
5. Calling home daily was the **crutch** that helped Maria get through her loneliness.