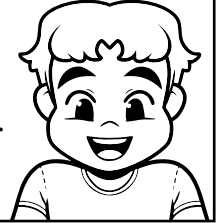


Name: _____

Shades of Meaning

Synonyms and other groups of words used to describe similar ideas often have small but important differences in meaning. Using the most accurate word makes your ideas clearer and your writing more descriptive.

example: Someone **delighted** is very pleased, often about a specific thing.
Someone **ecstatic** is happy beyond reason or self-control.



Read each scenario. Complete the statement by writing the word whose meaning most closely matches the information and tone.

1. Even though he knew better, Cameron behaved poorly. He now deeply regrets his actions and dislikes how it reflects on him.

Cameron feels _____.
embarrassed / ashamed

2. The candidates for student council boldly announced their plans to run for election. They wanted to look strong and proactive.

The candidates _____ their intentions.
declared / stated

3. Zahir's grandmother gave him a book she owned when she was younger. Its binding was creased and the pages were a bit worn.

Zahir was gifted an _____ book.
old / ancient

4. Raelynn was pleased to visit the park. She took her time walking around and contentedly observing her surroundings.

Raelynn moved _____ through the park.
sluggishly / leisurely

5. Science is Marisol's favorite subject. However, she missed most of the science lesson yesterday because a spider in the room distracted her.

Marisol was _____ in class yesterday.
uninterested / inattentive

6. The painting showed a wild scene in bold colors. No one could look away.

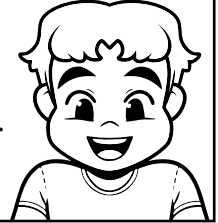
The painting made everyone _____.
stare / notice

ANSWER KEY

Shades of Meaning

Synonyms and other groups of words used to describe similar ideas often have small but important differences in meaning. Using the most accurate word makes your ideas clearer and your writing more descriptive.

example: Someone **delighted** is very pleased, often about a specific thing.
Someone **ecstatic** is happy beyond reason or self-control.



Read each scenario. Complete the statement by writing the word whose meaning most closely matches the information and tone.

1. Even though he knew better, Cameron behaved poorly. He now deeply regrets his actions and dislikes how it reflects on him.

Cameron feels ashamed.
embarrassed / ashamed

2. The candidates for student council boldly announced their plans to run for election. They wanted to look strong and proactive.

The candidates declared their intentions.
declared / stated

3. Zahir's grandmother gave him a book she owned when she was younger. Its binding was creased and the pages were a bit worn.

Zahir was gifted an old book.
old / ancient

4. Raelynn was pleased to visit the park. She took her time walking around and contentedly observing her surroundings.

Raelynn moved leisurely through the park.
sluggishly / leisurely

5. Science is Marisol's favorite subject. However, she missed most of the science lesson yesterday because a spider in the room distracted her.

Marisol was inattentive in class yesterday.
uninterested / inattentive

6. The painting showed a wild scene in bold colors. No one could look away.

The painting made everyone stare.
stare / notice