**Context Clues**

Decoding and Understanding unknown words

(without using a dictionary)

* 4 Types
  + Examples
  + Synonyms
  + Antonyms
  + General Sense of the Passage
* Context literally means “with text”
* Some clues to words meanings are right in the text itself.

**Examples:**

* Sometimes, a passage may give you a clue to the meaning of a word by saying, “For example,” or “For instance.”
  + The man was **robust**. For example, he stood 6 feet tall, had large muscles, and was very widely built.
* Sometimes it may not include “for example,” or “for instance.”
  + The man was **robust.** He stood 6 feet tall, had large muscles, and was very widely built.
* However, this is still an example and gives you a clue as to the meaning of the word.

**Synonyms:**

* Meaning “‘with’ or ‘same’ words,” Synonyms are words that mean the same thing or are similar.
  + Robust, booming, hearty, hefty, powerful, sturdy, tough, strong.
  + The man was a **robust** man, powerful, sturdy, and tough.
  + The man was **robust.** A strong, hearty man like him would have no trouble.
* Look for the keyword “like.”

**Antonyms**

* Just the opposite of synonyms - They are words that mean the opposite.
  + good/bad, happy/sad, grow/shrink, big/small, robust/fragile, small, weak, unstable
  + The man was **robust.** He was in no way small or weak.
  + The man was not small or weak at all. Instead, he was rather **robust.**
* Look for keywords like “rather,” “instead,” “actually.”

**General Sense of the Passage**

* You can tell by what the passage says what the meaning is.
* It is less direct than the others. It is more intuitive.
  + **“Beware** the Jabberwock, my son! The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!”
* The general sense of the word “beware” above is hinted at by the other words, so it is understood even if you don’t know the word “Beware.”

REMEMBER!

There are more context clues, these are just some. There are others that we may look at later.