

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Finding Meaning In Context

Below is a passage from “Jane Eyre,” Charlotte Brontë’s classic novel published in 1847. The novel follows Jane as she grows from an orphan to a young woman. In this passage, Jane is a child, living with her uncle’s family after her parents die.

Read the passage, paying special attention to the underlined words. Complete the grid at the bottom of the page.

I was a discord in Gateshead Hall: I was like nobody there; I had nothing in harmony with Mrs. Reed or her children, or her chosen vassalage. If they did not love me, in fact, as little did I love them. They were not bound to regard with affection a thing that could not sympathise with one amongst them; a heterogeneous thing, opposed to them in temperament, in capacity, in propensities; a useless thing, incapable of serving their interest, or adding to their pleasure; a noxious thing, cherishing the germs of indignation at their treatment, of contempt of their judgment. I know that had I been a sanguine, brilliant, careless, exacting, handsome, romping child—though equally dependent and friendless—Mrs. Reed would have endured my presence more complacently; her children would have entertained for me more of the cordiality of fellow-feeling; the servants would have been less prone to make me the scapegoat of the nursery.



Word	part of speech	What do you think it means?	What were your clues?
1. discord			
2. harmony			
3. vassalage			
4. heterogeneous			
5. propensities			
6. incapable			
7. noxious			
8. sanguine			
9. complacently			
10. cordiality			

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **Key**

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**Student answers will vary for columns 3-4. Example of correct answers:**

Word	part of speech	What do you think it means?	What were your clues?
1. discord	<b>noun</b>	<b>disagreement</b>	
2. harmony	<b>noun</b>	<b>common</b>	
3. vassalage	<b>noun</b>	<b>servants</b>	
4. heterogeneous	<b>adjective</b>	<b>different</b>	
5. propensities	<b>noun</b>	<b>emotions</b>	
6. incapable	<b>adjective</b>	<b>unable</b>	
7. noxious	<b>adjective</b>	<b>unpleasant</b>	
8. sanguine	<b>adjective</b>	<b>cheerful</b>	
9. complacently	<b>adverb</b>	<b>easily</b>	
10. cordiality	<b>noun</b>	<b>friendship</b>	