

Word Attack!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

How Do You Figure Out What a Word Means?

Try these strategies when you're faced with an unfamiliar word!

- Read all the way to the end of the sentence and look for clues. Does the author use commas and definitions or maybe parentheses? What do you notice that might give you a clue?
- Go back and read the sentence that comes before. Are there clues there?
- Look for punctuation (parentheses, commas, colons).
- Read the entire paragraph again for clues.
- Is the word in bold? That means it's usually in the glossary or defined right on the page.
- Break it down! Look for word parts—roots, prefixes, suffixes. What's familiar?
- Do you know what part of speech it is?
- Replace the word with another and see whether it makes sense.

Ways to Remember

<p>Word</p>	<p>What are the characteristics? What facts do I know?</p>	<p>In my own words — what I think the definition is:</p>
<p>Visual (Sketch It)</p>	<p>Connections</p>	<p>Use It!</p>