Context Clues

I. **Strategy:** Context Clues

II. **Type of Strategy:** Vocabulary

III. **Type of text:** Fiction and Nonfiction

IV. **Grade Level:** 1-5

V. **Type of Learner:** Intensive, Strategic, Proficient, Advanced

VI. **Purpose of Using Strategy:**
This strategy teaches students to use context clues to determine word meanings and improves their ability to infer the meanings of unfamiliar words.

VII. **Steps:**
1. Teacher explains that context clues are words or word phrases that give readers clues or ideas to the meaning of other words.
2. Teacher introduces the concept through a cloze sentence. (Ex: They just ordered the sausage and cheese ________ and salads for dinner.)
3. Teacher asks students to guess the missing word and discuss what clues they used to determine their answers.
4. Teacher then demonstrates the use of the Using Context Clues chart (see Attachment)
5. Teacher begins reading text and identifies an unfamiliar word.
6. Teacher models use of the chart for students.
7. The teacher highlights two more words or phrases in the text that help to determine the meaning of the unfamiliar word.
8. Students then use the Paired Heads together strategy to practice determining meaning of other unfamiliar words. Students work in shoulder partner pairs. The teacher displays a paragraph with an unfamiliar word on the Smartboard. Pairs huddle together to determine the word meaning. Then the teacher calls for each student in the pair to share the word meaning with their face partner.

VIII. **Tips:**
1. A class chart or individual student chart may be used.

IX. **Resources:**
**Using Context Clues**

When you come across an unfamiliar word in your reading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Look for words or phrases that may be clues or hints to the word’s meaning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>First, look for clues in the sentence that contains the word. Then, if you need to, look for clues in the sentences that come before or after.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Using the context clues, try to determine the meaning of the unfamiliar word.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Try out meaning in the original sentence, to check whether or not it makes sense.</td>
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