Word detectives: answers and notes

What your child practised: working out the meaning of a new word from clues in the sentence (Year 3 reading).

Page 1 · Warm up

Clues: forgot our coats, storm, dripping water. **Drenched** means **soaking wet**.

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Praise close guesses that use the clues.

Page 2 · A. Ring the meaning

1. **tired** · 2. **tiny** · 3. **dark** · 4. **very happy**

Page 3 · B. Clues and meanings

1. clues: cool down → **very hot**
2. clues: toys, books and clothes everywhere → **messy, full of things**
3. clues: but, hardly said a word → **chatty, likes to talk a lot**

Page 3 · C. Baffling

1. **very confusing** or very hard to work out.
2. "But" tells you the second puzzle was the opposite of simple.

Page 3 · D. Your clue sentence

Answers will vary, e.g. "The whale was **gigantic**, as long as three buses."

Page 3 · Challenge

No. The word **but** shows the house is the opposite of the giant. So enormous means the opposite of tiny: **very big**. A giant is a clue too!

Watch out for

- **Guessing without reading the clues.** Cover the word with a finger and ask "What word would fit here?" The clues give the answer.
- **Picking the opposite meaning**, especially with **but**. Point to "but" and say "this means things are about to change direction".

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Pause and ask:** when you read together, stop at a new word and ask "Which words nearby give us a clue?"
- **Nonsense words:** say a sentence with a made-up word ("I put on my wellies and splodged through the mud"). What could it mean?
- **In the game:** Chapter 3, Shades of Meaning, looks at synonyms, opposites and stronger words.