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

Context Clues – Using Antonyms to Determine Meaning – Answer Key

Part 1: Each sentence will contain one word or a group of words that mean the opposite of the underlined word. Write the meaning of the underlined word and the word or words that mean the opposite.

*These are suggested definitions. They can be adjusted by the instructor as necessary.*

1. Cindy’s mother thought the beach house was great, but Cindy was disappointed.

Meaning: *not happy because someone has not done something you wanted them to do; something is not the way you wanted it to be*

Words that mean the opposite: *thought the beach house was great*

1. In Daniel’s opinion, the book was extraordinary, but Jenna thought it wasn’t that great.

Meaning: *great; unusual; amazing*

Words that mean the opposite: *wasn’t that great*

1. While most people believed that Richard was an expert in physics, he really didn’t know very much about physics at all.

Meaning: *someone who has a lot of knowledge in a certain subject*

Words that mean the opposite: *didn’t know very much*

1. Mark thought the answer to the math question was obvious, but his friend John couldn’t understand it easily.

Meaning: *easily understood*

Words that mean the opposite: *couldn’t understand it easily*

1. Sally told the class about ducks in detail, while Ralph just gave a little information in his report.

Meaning: *completely; fully*

Words that mean the opposite: *gave a little information*

1. Michael thought he was just an average basketball player, but he was really an amazing basketball player.

Meaning: *just okay; not very good*

Words that mean the opposite: *really an amazing player*

1. Many people thought the sword was very old at first, but then they found out that it had actually been made recently.

Meaning: *not long ago*

Words that mean the opposite: *very old*

1. The teacher said that each student’s score in the group project would come from individual effort, not the efforts of all the students in the group together.

Meaning: *a single person; not a group*

Words that mean the opposite: *all the students in the group together*

1. When everyone met Molly, they thought she was just a normal student. No one expected her to be a brilliant scientist!

Meaning: *very clever or talented*

Words that mean the opposite: *just a normal student*

1. Even though beauty is often on the outside, everyone knows that beauty can also be found within a person.

Meaning: *inside (something)*

Words that mean the opposite: *on the outside*

Part 2: Complete each sentence with a word from the box.

brilliant recently disappointed obvious within

extraordinary in detail average individual expert

1. As an expert photographer, many people asked her to take their picture.
2. The solution to the puzzle was so obvious after it was solved.
3. She felt disappointed when her favorite team lost the championship game.
4. Stephen Hawking was a brilliant thinker in the field of physics.
5. The teacher told the students what she wanted to do in detail.
6. Even though he tried very hard, his grades were average compared to his classmates.
7. The weather has been very cold recently.
8. The view was so extraordinary that his mouth fell open in amazement.
9. Each individual student in the class has different strengths and talents.
10. Many wonderful works of art can be found within the museum.

Part 3: Write five sentences using five words from the box in part 2.

*Answers will vary.*