

Name _____

Analyzing Context

Directions: Read each passage carefully. Use context clues not only to define the bolded word but also to understand the author's attitude, intent, or implied message. Answer each question thoughtfully, using evidence from the text.



1. The biography painted the artist as a **reclusive** genius, someone who shunned fame and retreated from public life the moment his paintings began receiving attention. He refused interviews, declined awards, and lived for decades in a cabin with no internet, letting his work speak entirely for itself.

What does “reclusive” most likely mean? What larger message does the author suggest about the artist’s character? *Answer in 2-3 sentences.*

2. The town had once been **prosperous**, filled with thriving shops, weekly markets, and music festivals that attracted tourists from around the country. Now, its boarded-up windows, silent streets, and crumbling benches told a very different story.

What does “prosperous” most likely mean, and how does the contrast deepen the emotional impact of the passage?

- A. Poor and rundown; the author is describing a steady decline
- B. Wealthy and successful; the author is highlighting a fall from grace
- C. Culturally boring; the author is criticizing a lack of excitement
- D. Overcrowded; the author is warning about excessive growth

3. Rather than confront his mistake, Marcus delivered a long, **circuitous** explanation that avoided the main issue entirely. He mentioned the history of the project, the decisions made by others, and even a personal anecdote—but never actually admitted what had gone wrong.

What does “circuitous” most likely mean, and what is the author's tone toward Marcus’s explanation? *Answer in 1-2 sentences.*
