

Name _____

Meaning Climb-Up Answer Key

1. cool, chilly, icy
2. annoyed, upset, furious
3. tiny, small, huge
4. whisper, speak, shout
5. peckish, hungry, starving
6. bright, glowing, brilliant
7. brave, bold, fearless
8. giggle, laugh, roar

Teacher's Guide

- Review with students that **shades of meaning** show slight differences in strength or intensity between similar words.
- Encourage students to picture each word in their mind and compare how strong or weak each one feels. Visualizing scenarios can help them make accurate choices.
- For differentiation, create a simple number scale (1 to 3) and allow students to sort words by rating their intensity first, then arrange them on the ladder.
- Allow partners to discuss their ladders and justify their order choices using evidence or examples from real life.
- As an engagement idea, let students act out each synonym with increasing intensity.
- For extension, have students create a brand new ladder using three synonyms they choose from a reading passage, science unit, or class discussion.