Name _____

Context Discoveries Answer Key

1. **Musty** - Old, stale, or smelling of age.
    - Clues: The library is described as old, dusty, and creaky, suggesting an aged smell.
2. **Residue** - A leftover layer of dust or film.
    - Clues: "Thin layer… from decades of dust" explains what residue refers to.
3. **Ornate** - Highly decorated or detailed.
    - Clues: The chest is "carved with twisting vines and strange symbols," showing it was fancy and detailed.
4. **Groan** - A creaking or moaning noise from strain.
    - Clues: The chest is heavy and old, so it makes a strained sound when opened.
5. **Delicate** - Fine, light, or fragile.
    - Clues: The "faded ribbon" and old letters suggest the handwriting was light and fragile-looking.

Teacher Note:

Encourage students to underline or highlight **context clues** (descriptive words, comparisons, or explanations) that help define the unfamiliar word. This builds the habit of figuring out meaning from surrounding text instead of relying only on a dictionary.

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