Name _____



Context Discoveries

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Identify the **bold** words in the passage. Use context clues from surrounding sentences to infer the meaning of each word. Write the meaning in your own words and explain what clues helped you figure it out.

Nora tiptoed into the old library, where the air smelled **musty** and the wooden floors creaked under her steps. She ran her hand along the shelves, covered in a thin layer of **residue** from decades of dust. At the back of the room, she discovered a large, **ornate** chest carved with twisting vines and strange symbols. Curious, she tugged at the heavy lid, which opened with a loud **groan**. Inside, she found bundles of letters tied together with faded ribbon, each page covered in **delicate** handwriting. Nora felt a wave of excitement; she had uncovered a hidden treasure of stories waiting to be told.

Questions:

1. What does **musty** most likely mean in this passage? What clues helped you?
2. What does **residue** suggest about the condition of the library shelves?
3. The word **ornate** is used to describe the chest. What does it mean, and what in the passage supports your answer?
4. The chest opened with a **groan**. What is implied about the chest by this word?
5. The handwriting is described as **delicate**. What does that word mean in this context?

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