**Using Context Clues**

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| Name: |  | Date: |  |

Read this passage from Jack London’s *The Call of the Wild*. Use context clues to define each boldfaced word below.

They made Sixty Miles, which is a fifty-mile run, on the first day; and the second day saw them booming up the Yukon well on their way to Pelly. But such splendid running was achieved not without great trouble and **vexation** on the part of Francois. The **insidious** revolt led by Buck had destroyed the **solidarity** of the team. It no longer was as one dog leaping in the **traces**. The encouragement Buck gave the rebels led them into all kinds of petty **misdemeanors**. No more was Spitz a leader greatly to be feared. The old awe departed, and they grew equal to challenging his authority. Pike robbed him of half a fish one night and gulped it down under the protection of Buck. Another night Dub and Joe fought Spitz and made him **forego** the punishment they deserved. And even Billee, the good-natured, was less good-natured, and whined not half so **placatingly** as in former days. Buck never came near Spitz without snarling and bristling **menacingly**. In fact, his conduct approached that of a bully, and he was given to **swaggering** up and down before Spitz’s very nose.

1. vexation

a state of annoyance, frustration, and intense worry

1. insidious

with a slow, secret, and malicious advancement

1. solidarity

unified action and spirit around a joint endeavor

1. traces

side straps that connect animals (dogs) to a conveyance (sled)

1. misdemeanors

petty wrongdoings or crimes

1. forego

do without, omit

1. placatingly

in a manner meant to reduce anger or hostility

1. menacingly

in a way that suggests danger or threat

1. swaggering

moving with arrogant, self-satisfied dominance