

Name: _____

Figure it Out for “The Monsters are Due on Maple Street”

The words below all appear in “The Monsters are Due on Maple Street,” but are presented in context so that you can “figure them out.” Read each sentence. Using the context of the sentence, try to infer what the word means. Also, decide whether this word has a positive or negative connotation.

Sentence	Word Meaning	Connotation (+/-)
There were so many people talking that the teacher’s voice was indistinct in the mess of the conversation.		
The boy became flustered when he was called on to answer the question. He dropped his papers on the floor, almost fell out of his chair, and blushed right up to his ears.		
The river was slow and sluggish in its movements.		
The people all agreed, so they muttered their assent to the plan.		
The girl pursued her dream persistently . She didn’t let setbacks slow her down.		
I felt overwhelming optimism about the party. Everything was going to be wonderful!		
I saw the validity of his statement. It was obvious he was telling the truth.		
He was so tired that he was thinking illogically , which was strange for him because he was the most organized thinker I knew.		

<p>The mom loved watching the metamorphosis of her daughter from child to young woman to adult.</p>		
<p>.It was hard to believe that the man was guilty, but the evidence definitely incriminated him.</p>		
<p>I was plagued by insomnia. No matter what I did, I couldn't sleep.</p>		
<p>"Do you think I could maybe see if I could go to the park tomorrow. Please?" asked the girl timorously, in the tiniest voice imaginable.</p>		
<p>He was a nice person, but his idiosyncrasies made him unpredictable and hard to get along with.</p>		
<p>I stifled my scream. I didn't want to be heard by my brother, who would tease me for being afraid.</p>		
<p>The farmer interspersed the corn between the rows of potatoes and beans.</p>		
<p>The chair was shrouded in a drop cloth, in order to keep the dust off of it.</p>		
<p>I found the doctor's vague answer confusing. Was my condition serious or not?</p>		
<p>The store had endless variations of the same kind of shoe, in different color and patterns.</p>		