

Name:



Clarifying

When we read, we try to make sense as we go along.

Clarifying is what you do when you try to figure out what new words mean as you read.

In the passage below, underline words that are new to you.

Gary Soto grew up in a barrio, a Latino area, in Fresno, California. He was the middle child in a family of three children, with an older brother, Rick, and a sister, Debra. Gary was always the fearless one, ready to try anything. When Gary was only five, his family was devastated by the death of his father, Manuel. He said the family simply stopped talking after the loss. They just watched TV silently. The Sotos were almost illiterate, Gary said. There were no books in his house, and nobody read for fun. Gary discovered writing in high school, although he earned laughable grades. As an author, Soto began to write realistic stories based on his early life.

Source: *Gary Soto* by Tamara Orr. Minneapolis, MN: Rosen Publishing, 2005.

One strategy we use to clarify is to **look for base words**. Base words carry the core meaning.

1. Underline the base word in each word below.
2. Write what you think each whole word might mean.

Challenge word	I think it means . . .
fearless	
laughable	
realistic	