

Name:



Clarifying



When we read, we try to make sense as we go along. Two of the main things we do are **clarifying** and **summarizing**.

Clarifying means noticing new words or groups of words. You try to figure out their meaning. For example, in the passage below, you may spot some words that are new to you. Underline these words.



By the 1950s, slavery was long over. But life was still hard for African Americans. In the South, many Black farmers did not own their own land. They worked on land that someone else owned. Farmers who worked on this system were called sharecroppers. Every year, sharecroppers had to give the landowner a share of their crop to sell. The share was most often one-half. Sharecroppers were always short of money.

States and towns in the South used segregation, a system to keep African Americans separated from Whites. In the 1950's, African Americans in the South had separate schools, restaurant sections, movie seats and restrooms. Most of the time, the facilities for African Americans were lower quality. States and towns in the North had segregation laws, too. But segregation was much stronger in the South. Segregation affected every part of daily life: where you could eat, how you could travel, and where you could go to school. In the South, African Americans were expected to show deference to Whites. They had to say "sir" and "ma'am" to Whites. They had to sit at the back of the bus. They were expected to look down when White people passed by them.

The Ku Klux Klan was also active in the South during this time. The Ku Klux Klan, or KKK, is a white supremacist hate group. They fought against equality for African Americans. They tried to keep Whites in power. Often, they used violence and murder to try to achieve their goals.



Share the words you underlined with your partner. Copy each word below and write your idea about what the word means.

1. _____ probably means _____
2. _____ probably means _____
3. _____ probably means _____

Clarifying, continued



What was life like for African Americans in Mississippi in 1955? What might Emmett Till expect to see there?
