

## Vocabulary Strategy

### NUANCED MEANINGS IN A THESAURUS

The word **thesaurus** comes from the Greek word for *treasure*. If you are having trouble finding just the right word to express an idea, a thesaurus will provide a treasury of synonyms.

**A. Directions:** Write as many synonyms as you can for each of the words below. Then, use a thesaurus to check your responses.

1. deflect \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. fluke \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. probe \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Directions:** Choose the word with the correct nuance to replace the boldfaced word in each sentence below.

1. The workers struggled to **deflect** the floodwaters into the canal.  
a. hook                      b. pivot                      c. divert                      d. whip
2. The breaking of the dam was a horrible **fluke** that almost destroyed the entire community.  
f. accident                      g. blessing                      h. quirk                      j. windfall
3. After the flood, the mayor ordered a **probe**.  
a. exploration                      b. investigation                      c. inquest                      d. inquisition