More than one meaning

Words often have several meanings that can be very different. For example, ‘high’ can have six possible meanings.

GETTING STARTED

Find two separate meanings for each of the following words.

1. balloon
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________

2. train
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________

3. caravan
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________

4. plane
   _______________________________________________________________
   _______________________________________________________________

MOVING ON

Read the following sentences and circle the meaning of the highlighted word. Check in your dictionary that you are correct.

The sun hadn’t cleared the ridge of the mountains opposite and it was still chilly in the shadows.
   Joe Simpson, Touching the Void
   rather cold
   unfriendly

I thought he was dead. He was sitting with his legs stretched out and his head tipped back against the wall.
   David Almond, Skellig
   no longer alive
   exact or precise

Except for one lousy F in a class that will be of no use to me whatsoever in my future life, I’m doing pretty well.
   Meg Cabot, The Princess Diaries
   full of lice
   very bad or unpleasant

Three deep parallel grooves of skin appeared upon George’s low sloping forehead.
   Roald Dahl, Vengeance Is Mine Inc
   similar or corresponding
   side by side and the same distance apart

Harry...went to the apothecary to replenish his store of Potions’ ingredients.
   J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
   to fill up a supply that has been depleted
   to fill someone with energy or food that they need

How many did you get right?

2 = NOVICE
5 = EXPERT
10 = MAESTRO

You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools for these activities.