

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Paired Texts Vocabulary

## "Swarms of Terror"

- 1. contend (kuhn-TEND)** *verb*; To contend is to argue or state a belief in a strong way—to insist that something is true. You might, for example, contend that your friend never told you he was spending the summer in Japan, even though he insists that he did. Or you might contend that your favorite football team has a great chance of making it to the Super Bowl this year.

*Contend* followed by *with* can mean "struggle with" when you're talking about trying to overcome a difficulty or a threat. A coffee shop that runs out of coffee would have to contend with angry customers.

- 2. crescendo (kruh-SHEN-doh)** *noun or verb*; *Crescendo* is a musical term for a gradual increase in volume, or for the climax or peak of a gradual rise in volume. So you could say, "The piece ended in a crescendo" or "The singing reached a crescendo as the characters grasped hands."

*Crescendo* can be used in nonmusical situations too. The roar of a crowd might reach a crescendo as the band walks on-stage.

As a verb, *crescendo* means "to increase in loudness or intensity." Elizabeth's voice might be soft as she begins her speech and then crescendo until she is shouting.

- 3. decimate (DES-uh-meyt)** *verb*; To decimate something is to destroy it or cause severe damage to a large part of it. A hurricane might decimate a farmer's crops.

- 4. lush (luhsh)** *adjective*; *Lush* is used to describe full, healthy plant growth. A tropical rainforest is lush. *Lush* can also mean luxurious—having a pleasing, rich quality. A room with silk curtains, a crystal chandelier, and a velvet sofa with pillows piled high might be described as lush.

- 5. plague (pleyg)** *noun or verb*; A plague is a disease that spreads quickly and kills many people. You may have heard of a plague known as the "Black Death" that killed millions of people in Europe during medieval times.

*Plague* is also used to refer to an outbreak of something unpleasant or harmful. After watching a scary movie, you might suffer a plague of nightmares.

As a verb, *plague* means "to cause endless trouble, stress, or suffering." A dog might be plagued by fleas. You might be plagued by guilt if you eat the last slice of pizza after promising your sister that you'd save it for her.

**6. ravenous (RA-vuh-nuhs)** *adjective*; If you are ravenous, you are extremely hungry, as in, "We were ravenous after hiking all day. We wolfed down our dinners!"

**7. spindly (SPIND-lee)** *adjective*; Something that is spindly has a long, tall, thin appearance and seems weak or flimsy. Young horses wobble on their spindly legs. A spindly wooden chair has a tall back and skinny legs, and doesn't look like it could support a lot of weight.

### **"Growing Up on a Farm"**

**1. instill (in-STILL)** *verb*; To instill an idea, a value, or a belief is to put it into someone's mind little by little over time. Parents can instill good manners in their children. Teachers can instill pride in their students. A grandmother can instill a love of nature in her grandchildren.

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**Directions:** Below and on the back of this page, list any other words from the articles whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

# Paired Texts Vocabulary Practice

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**Directions:** Answer each question below.

1. Steve instilled a love of camping in his children. Explain how he might have done this.

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2. Sandra gazes out of the car window and watches the lush scenery go by. Describe what Sandra sees.

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3. Mike didn't stay after school to play basketball with his friends—he said he had to go home because he was ravenous. Describe one thing Mike definitely did when he got home.

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4. There was a crescendo of voices in the cafeteria. Describe the noise in the cafeteria.

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**Directions:** In each pair of boldfaced words, underline the word that best completes the sentence.

5. Aaron had planned to sleep in on Saturday, but he had to **contend**/**instill** with the sound of his neighbor's lawn mower at 8 a.m.
6. The castle's **spindly**/**ravenous** tower reached so high into the sky that it looked as if it might topple over.
7. The soccer player has spent the past few seasons **instilled**/**plagued** by knee injuries.
8. My sister **instilled**/**decimated** the Pigtrooper fleet during our game of *Angry Birds Star Wars* yesterday.