

Name: _____ Date: _____

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read aloud.

Vocabulary:

"Stalking the Bat Killer"

- 1. carcass (KAHR-kuss)** *noun*; A carcass is the dead body of an animal, either the remains of an animal that has died in the wild or one that has been prepared for use as meat.
- 2. culprit (KUHL-prit)** *noun*; A culprit is a person or thing responsible for some offense, harm, or crime. After a robbery, the police look for the culprit. If there is a fire, a faulty wire could be the culprit.
- 3. dehydrated (dee-HAYH-dreyt-id)** *adjective*; To dehydrate something is to remove water or moisture from it. Excessive sweating dehydrates people, which is why you should drink plenty of water after exercising, to replace what you lost.

Someone or something that is dehydrated has lost too much water. If you're dehydrated, you might become very thirsty or sleepy, or you might get a headache. If a plant is dehydrated, the leaves will droop.
- 4. detest (dih-TEST)** *verb*; The verb *detest* means "to dislike very strongly." If you detest onions, you probably wouldn't eat it even if someone paid you.
- 5. emaciated (ih-MEY-shee-ey-tid)** *adjective*; An animal or a person who is emaciated is extremely thin and weak because of illness or a lack of food.
- 6. nocturnal (nok-TUR-nl)** *adjective*; *Nocturnal* means "done, occurring, or active at night." Nocturnal animals, like bats and fireflies, sleep during the day and are active mainly at night.
- 7. petrified (PEH-truh-fahyd)** *adjective*; To *petrify* (PEH-truh-fahy) something is to turn it into stone. Petrified wood, for example, is wood that has hardened into stone. This is a process that occurs in nature when the plant material in a piece of wood is slowly replaced with minerals. Petrified wood takes millions of years to form.

Petrify can also mean "to make very afraid." If you are petrified, you're so frightened that you are unable to move, as if you have turned to stone. Your dog might be petrified during thunderstorms. You might be petrified of snakes.

8. rehabilitator (ree-huh-BIL-ih-teyt-er) *noun*; The verb *rehabilitate* (ree-huh-BIL-ih-teyt) means "to bring someone or something back to a normal, healthy condition after an injury or illness."

A rehabilitator is someone who rehabilitates others. A wildlife rehabilitator is someone who cares for sick, injured, and orphaned animals.

9. spore (spawr) *noun*; Spores are special cells that are part of the life cycle of fungi and certain nonflowering plants. Spores are not seeds, but like seeds, they allow the organism they come from to reproduce. Spores can be spread by the wind or by attaching to something that travels, such as an animal or your shoe.

10. torpor (TAWR-per) *noun*; Torpor is a state of decreased body activity, similar to a state of light sleep, that some animals go into in order to survive the cold winter months when food is scarce. Animals in torpor lower their body temperature, heart rate, and breathing rate to save energy. Some animals go into and come out of torpor daily, while others go into torpor for days, weeks, or months at a time.

Directions: In the space below or on the back of this page, list any other words from the article 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 using the word.

Vocabulary Practice

"Stalking the Bat Killer"

Directions: Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

1. petrified

- Ⓐ terrified Ⓑ excited

2. emaciated

- Ⓐ overweight Ⓑ underweight

3. nocturnal

- Ⓐ nighttime Ⓑ daytime

4. culprit

- Ⓐ hero Ⓑ offender

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the best answer choice.

5. Who has a job as a rehabilitator?

- Ⓐ a physical therapist who helps a person recover from a leg injury
Ⓑ a professional soccer player teaching a soccer clinic

6. Which produces spores?

- Ⓐ roses growing in a garden
Ⓑ black fungus growing on a shower curtain

7. Which animal is in torpor?

- Ⓐ a squirrel snoozing in a tree for 10 days
Ⓑ a squirrel running back and forth from tree to tree

Directions: Complete each unfinished sentence in a way that makes the meaning of the boldfaced word clear.

8. Our cat and our neighbor's cat **detest** one another. They _____

9. I felt very **dehydrated** when I woke up this morning, so I _____

10. After dinner, my mom asked me to throw away the **carcass**. I grabbed the _____