

Name: _____

Stink Blob to the Rescue

By Sandie Lee



Mom senses danger. It's a villainous wasp hovering just overhead. She quickly gathers her 24 nymphs under her triangular body.

The wasp approaches.

Mom frantically waves her antennae. Not fazed, the wasp flies even closer. Mom turns her tough, shield-like back and quickly buzzes her wings. The wasp ignores her



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wait.

Stink bugs range from 6 to 12 mm in size and come in various colors. Most are brown, grey and green. Some, like the harlequin stink bug, are black with bright yellow or orange markings. All stink bugs have a large triangular structure on their backs. This raised covering points towards their hind end and is called the *scutellum*.

As their name suggests, stink bugs also produce a chemical so noxious and foul that most insects and animals are repelled by it immediately. However, the stench-gob is used only as a last resort since it saps the bug of most of its energy.



Not all insects are as protective of their young as the 'parent bug.' She will still protect her young even when they're old enough to be on their own. When the young wander off they secrete a scent trail. If in trouble they send out a powerful alarm scent. It's Mom to the rescue as she follows this scent path right to her nymph.

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1. Why did the author write this article?
 - a. to explain how wasps hunt for prey
 - b. to give information about stink blobs
 - c. to tell you how nymphs protect themselves
 - d. to give information about stink bugs



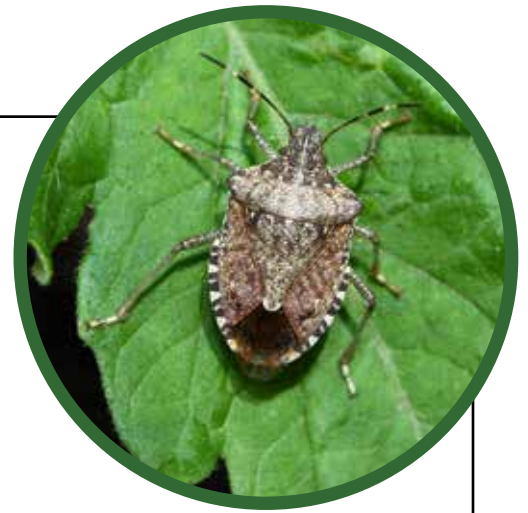
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4. Explain how the writer's style changes in the last two paragraphs.

5. Why do you think the author begins this passage with an exciting story?

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Part 1: Reread "Stink Blob to the Rescue." As you read, find and highlight these vocabulary words in the passage: *nymph*, *villainous*, *saps*, *commotion*, *noxious*, *secrete*, and *triangular*.

Part 2: Match each word with its definition. Use a dictionary if you need help.



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6. _____ secrete

f. wild excitement

7. _____ triangular

g. to release a chemical substance from the body

Part 3: Use a vocabulary word from above to correctly complete each sentence.

8. When the machine in the factory broke, it released a _____ odor into the air.

9. When the children were yelling and screaming, their mother walked in the room and asked, "What is all of this _____ about?"

10. Only a superhero can stop Dr. Dare's _____ plan to take over the world.

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5. Why do you think the author begins this passage with an exciting story?

**The author begins with an exciting story to pull the reader in,
and make them interested in reading more.**

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9. When the children were yelling and screaming, their mother walked in the room and asked, "What is all of this commotion about?"
10. Only a superhero can stop Dr. Dare's villainous plan to take over the world.