The Rafflesia: World’s Stinkiest Flower
by Lill Pluta

The Rafflesia is the world’s largest flower, but you will not find it at your local florist shop. This bloom is too large and too smelly to be included in any bouquet. It grows to be about a yard wide, and it smells like rotting meat. The horrid odor helps this rare plant to survive. The stench draws flies, which in turn pollinate the Rafflesia. This is how the Rafflesia reproduces itself.

Stinky Parasite
by Lill Pluta

The Rafflesia is a parasite.
It doesn’t sting; it doesn’t bite.
Instead it smells like rotten meat or dirty, grubby, sweaty feet.
It’s putrid smell entices flies into a bloom of giant size that’s wider than a traffic sign and stuck onto a jungle vine.
The flies aren’t on its dinner plate; instead, the insects pollinate.
And when they’re done, they’re free to go to help more stinky blossoms grow.
1. Tell whether each fact can be learned from reading the poem, the article, or both. On each line below, write the word poem, article, or both.

________________________
A Rafflesia flower smells like rotten meat.

________________________
Rafflesia plants are endangered.

________________________
Rafflesias do not have roots or stems.

2. How big is a Rafflesia flower?
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

3. If a Rafflesia does not have roots, how does it get nutrients that help it survive?
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

4. List two reasons why the Rafflesia is in danger of becoming extinct.
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________

5. How does the terrible smell of the Rafflesia help it survive?
_______________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________
The Rafflesia - Vocabulary
by Lill Pluta

Match the vocabulary word on the left with the best definition on the right. Use a dictionary if you need help.

______ 1. florist
   a. to attract

______ 2. stench
   b. terrible smell

______ 3. chlorophyll
   c. person who works with and sells flowers

______ 6. entice
   f. moving pollen from one flower to another so the plant can reproduce

Fill in each of the the blank lines, using the one vocabulary words above.

7. Grandma is trying to _____________________ us to visit her by baking cookies.

8. When Bill took off his shoes, a terrible _____________________ filled the room.

9. The bees will buzz in and out of the apple blossoms, which will _____________________ the apple tree.

10. In autumn, maple tree leaves lose their _____________________, change color, and fall to the ground.
1. Tell whether each fact can be learned from reading the poem, the article, or both. On each line below, write the word **poem**, **article**, or **both**.

   - **both** A Rafflesia flower smells like rotten meat.
   - **article** Rafflesia plants are endangered.
   - **article** Rafflesias do not have roots or stems.

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2. How big is a Rafflesia flower?

   - A Rafflesia flower grows to be about a yard wide. (Also accept: A Rafflesia grows to be about as big as a traffic sign.)

3. If a Rafflesia does not have roots, how does it get nutrients that help it survive?

   - Rafflesia is a parasite. It attaches itself to other plants and uses the nourishment from the host plant.

4. List two reasons why the Rafflesia is in danger of becoming extinct.

   - The Rafflesia is becoming extinct because loggers damage the flowers when they cut down trees. Also, tourists trample and crush the flowers when they visit the jungle.

5. How does the terrible smell of the Rafflesia help it survive?

   - The terrible smell attracts flies that help pollinate the flower.
The Rafflesia - Vocabulary
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Match the vocabulary word on the left with the best definition on the right. Use a dictionary if you need help.

1. florist
   a. to attract

2. stench
   b. terrible smell

3. chlorophyll
   c. chemical that makes plants green

4. parasite
   d. a living thing that lives on another living thing, using it for nourishment

5. pollinate
   e. moving pollen from one flower to another so the plant can reproduce

6. entice
   f. to attract

Fill in each of the blank lines, using the one vocabulary words above.

7. Grandma is trying to **entice** us to visit her by baking cookies.

8. When Bill took off his shoes, a terrible **stench** filled the room.

9. The bees will buzz in and out of the apple blossoms, which will **pollinate** the apple tree.

10. In autumn, maple tree leaves lose their **chlorophyll**, change color, and fall to the **ground**.

Preview
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