

Night *Flight*

by Sammy Bay



1 Zack lived in the city. He went to many interesting places and saw all kinds of people. He loved the city. But he also loved to visit his grandparents' farm. Today he was leaving to do just that. Zack was in a very cheerful mood.

2 Zack liked a lot of things about the farm. He liked helping his grandparents. He liked riding the horses. He liked exploring. That day when Zack went into the barn to get his grandfather a rake, he saw something unusual on the floor. It

was shaped like an egg, but it was small and gray. Zack picked it up and took it to his grandfather. "Look what I found," he said. "What is it?"

3 "That's an owl pellet," Grandpa replied. "It's a package of stuff that an owl cannot digest. There is a book about owls in the house if you would like to learn more."

4 Zack spent the rest of the afternoon outside reading about owls. Then suddenly, it was dark and Zack was soaring high over a field. He looked down just as he was passing over a pond. In the bright moonlight, Zack could see his reflection. He was a barn owl! *This is neat*, thought Zack, as he silently swooped down toward a mouse.

5 Zack easily caught the mouse and flew to a nest in his grandfather's barn. There

were four baby owls waiting for him. They were beautiful. They were covered with soft tan feathers. The owlets were all very hungry, so Zack spent all night hunting mice and feeding the little owls. He was very tired, but he felt good about helping the babies.

6 Off in the distance, Zack heard someone calling his name. How was he going to let his grandmother know that he was an owl? Just then, he opened his eyes. It was not dark, and he was not an owl. He must have dozed off under the tree, and now his grandmother was calling him.

7 Zack couldn't wait to learn more about owls. Even more important than that, Zack was going to take care of owls when he grew up.



COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a*, *b*, or *c*.

- 1 This story is mainly about
 - a** Zack's interest in owls.
 - b** Zack's grandparents' farm.
 - c** Zack's life in the city.
- 2 Zack liked to visit his grandparents because he
 - a** hated the city.
 - b** didn't have to work there.
 - c** liked to explore.
- 3 Zack hunted all night because
 - a** he liked to fly.
 - b** baby owls eat a lot.
 - c** he didn't know how to land.

4 Zack thought he was an owl because he

- a** had been dreaming.
- b** wanted to be an owl.
- c** had read about owls.

5 When Zack grows up, he may help owls by

- a** reading about them.
- b** teaching people about them.
- c** collecting owl pellets.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B Often you can find out the meaning of a word by seeing how it is used in a story. The other words in the story give you clues.

Find the word in the story that best fits each meaning. (A paragraph number tells you where to look.) Write the word.

- 1 searching for; looking for something (2)
- 2 a small ball of something (3)
- 3 to break down in the stomach (3)
- 4 flying or gliding (4)
- 5 an image given back by a smooth surface (4)
- 6 moved in a rush (4)
- 7 baby owls (5)
- 8 fell asleep (6)

C Homographs are two (or more) words that are spelled the same but have different meanings and origins. A word's meaning will depend on how it is used.

My dad is a football *fan*.

He keeps cool with an electric *fan*.

Look at each word in **bold type** below. Note the paragraph number. Look back at the paragraph. Which meaning does the word have there? Write *a* or *b*.

9 **found** (2)

- a** did find
- b** set up; establish

10 **rest** (4)

- a** to take a break from work
- b** what is left of something

THINK ABOUT IT

D careful = care + **ful**
careless = care + **less**

The letters *-less* and *-ful* are called suffixes. A suffix is one or more letters added to the end of a root or base word. Suffixes change the word's meaning. The suffix *-ful* means "full of." The word *careful* means "full of care." The suffix *-less* means "without." The word *careless* means "without care."

Each word in **bold type** needs a suffix. Choose the correct suffix, *-ful* or *-less*. Write the word.

- 1 Zack was full of cheer as he packed to go to the farm. He was **cheer**_____.
- 2 Zack would never get tired of helping the owls. He would be **tire**_____.
- 3 Zack was amazed at the beauty of the owlets. They were **beauti**_____.
- 4 When Zack saw the baby owls he could not speak. He was **speech**_____.
- 5 Zack wanted to help the owls. He wanted to be **help**_____.

E Each sentence tells about an important part of the story. Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 6 Zack's cheerful mood started when
 - a he arrived at his grandparents' farm.
 - b he was getting ready to go to his grandparents' farm.
- 7 Zack made an interesting discovery when he
 - a found an owl pellet.
 - b got a rake for his grandfather.
- 8 Finding the owl pellet made Zack want to
 - a look around the barn for other treasures.
 - b learn more about owls.
- 9 Zack's life as an owl began when
 - a he learned more about owls.
 - b he fell asleep.
- 10 Zack made a decision to
 - a take care of owls when he grew up.
 - b sleep only in his bed from now on.