

ENLARGE YOUR VOCABULARY

By MISS MARGARITA SANTOS *



Read carefully the description below. Answer the questions after the paragraph. Refer to the paragraph again for appropriate descriptive words and useful expressions.

Night came before the usual time. The gray twilight had given way to the blackness of the night. The clouds grew blacker and crept slowly across the sky. Suddenly the wind blew furiously and the air was filled with leaves flying like birds. The branches of the sturdy acacia trees swayed and creaked. The street lamps and electric lights flickered. Soon the city was plunged in darkness. On rushed the wind and with it the hissing rain fell in torrents beating upon the roofs and against the rattling window panes. Once in a while a blinding streak of lightning flashed followed by a deafening blast of thunder.

- A. 1. What is the best title for this paragraph?
2. To which of the five senses does this paragraph appeal most? To the sense of hearing, smelling, feeling, seeing, tasting?
3. Make a list of the words that make us see the picture vividly. What words make us hear sounds?
4. What word shows that the acacia trees are not small?
5. Why were the lights put out?

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B. Match the words on the left column with the adjectives on the right column.

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|-----------------|-------|-------------------|
| 1. window panes | _____ | <i>hissing</i> |
| 2. rain | _____ | <i>sturdy</i> |
| 3. wind | _____ | <i>rattling</i> |
| 4. acacia trees | _____ | <i>furiously</i> |
| 5. clouds | _____ | <i>flickering</i> |
| 6. lamps | _____ | <i>deafening</i> |
| 7. thunder | _____ | <i>black</i> |

C. Select the best meaning for each word italicized in the sentence:

- The rain fell in *torrents*. (heavily, slowly, little by little).
- A blinding *streak* of lightning flashed. (circle, square, stripe).
- The windows *rattled*. (opened, clattered closed).
- The *sturdy* trees were not uprooted. (weak, small, strong).
- The city was *plunged* in darkness. (thrown, made, painted).
- The wind blew *furiously*. (quietly, slowly, angrily).

D. Fill the blanks with the correct words and say the sentences aloud. (crept, furiously, flickered, swayed, sturdy, hissing, torrents, rattling, lightning, deafening).

- A _____ guava tree stood near our house.
- I turned off the lights because the electric lamps _____.
- The branches of the guava tree _____.
- The _____ rain kept me awake all night.
- I covered my face with my blanket whenever the sharp _____ flashed and when the _____ thunder roared.
- The wind howled and blew _____.
- Rain entered through the _____ window panes.
- Streets were flooded because rain fell in _____.
- My dog, Puppy _____ under the bed.

E. When your teacher asks you to describe the thunderstorm last Saturday night, try to use the words you have learned from the description you have read. When you write to your friend in the province, tell her about the storm and use the new words you learn. Can you spell the words so that you can use them in your written work?