

PASSAGE 14

The Hateful Housefly



Everyone in the world has at some time been bothered by the housefly. These pesky insects follow wherever man goes. They are even seen at sea, flourishing in ships.

Because it is so small, few people realize what a frightening sight the housefly is. Near the eyes are two short, thick antennae that can detect movement, warn the fly of danger, as well as lead him to food.

Flies eat anything; the only basic requirement is that the food be liquid. The resourceful fly can dissolve such substances as sugar, potato, or a spot of grease, by spitting on it. He can then suck it up through the mouth.

Flies are **monumentally** stupid. Worms, snails, and cockroaches learn, but no one has ever been able to detect any learning ability in flies. They are active only when they are hungry. The rest of the time they merely stand around, sometimes upside down, clinging on with two tiny claws at the end of each foot, or if necessary gluing themselves on with a sticky substance secreted in the base of each foot.

Wherever flies go, they carry diseases. Typhoid, cholera, and tuberculosis are only a few of the germs they carry.

Date: _____

1. What evidence in the passage suggests that flies are everywhere? [1]

2. State TWO reasons why the antennae are important to the fly? [2]

3. Based on the passage, match the words from Column A with a word that is similar in meaning from Column B. Write the LETTER in the column provided. [3]

	Column A	Column B
	1. pesky	a. intelligent
	2. resourceful	b. annoying
	3. monumentally	c. capable
		4. extremely

4. How is a fly able to eat a piece of potato? [2]

5. Read each statement below. Write **F** if the statement is a Fact and **O** if it is an Opinion. [4]

- ___ Everyone hates flies.
- ___ Flies are ugly bugs.
- ___ Flies move only when they want food.
- ___ Flies can make people sick.

6. According to the passage, write down the names of TWO sicknesses that can be cause by flies. [2]
