

Name: _____ Date: _____
Ms. Cederquist Vocabulary

Annual: happening once a year

Blunder: a stupid or clumsy mistake

Grotesque: weird; distorted

Bicker: to fight or quarrel over something silly

Gawk: to stare stupidly

Brutal: vicious; cruel

Obese: very fat

Feline: cat-like; a member of the feline family

Toxic: poisonous; unhealthy; harmful

Tyrant: a ruler who abuses power

The first ten words listed above belong in the story below. Read the story and use the context clues in the text to place each word in the correct space provided. You may change the form of a word to fit the story, if you need to. For example, you might need to add ed, ing, ly, or s.)

Jason couldn't believe his eyes. He (1) _____ at the blubbery mound in the alley. He'd never seen such an (2) _____ animal before in his life. What was a baby walrus doing in the alley behind his house? Then it hit him -- it wasn't a walrus at all. It was a giant furry (3) _____ that must have weighed at least 25 pounds!

"That's not a cat, you dimwit," grumbled his brother Scott. Scott was a year older and bigger than Jason, and he thought everything that Jason did or said was wrong or stupid. "Cats are prissy, fluffy little things that play with balls of yarn. That (4) _____ thing is ragged and matted and looks like an old rug someone threw out. You're always making stupid (5) _____ like this," Scott said. "Go back in the house right now before I feed you to this thing."

Scott's last comment didn't scare Jason. Scott always tried to act like a (6) _____, but by now Jason was smart enough to know when Scott's threats were empty. "Look," Jason said. "It's got whiskers and a long tail, and it's shedding, which is why it looks so awful. It is a cat."

"It is not!"

"Is too!" Jason hated (7) _____ with his brother, but what else could he do? Big brothers were pretty much a pain in the neck.

"It looks like it fell into that pit full of (8) _____ waste down by the factory," he continued. "The factory had its (9) _____ drain and pipe cleaning a few days ago. The cat must have fallen into the pit, and the chemicals probably ate away part of its fur."

"Oh yeah?" said Scott. "It doesn't look too friendly."

"Oh, you're nothing but a big chicken. Let your big brother take care of it for you."

Scott headed toward the large blob. Just as he was about to touch it, the blob sprang into the air and sank its claws into Scott's jeans. Scott let out a scream and tried to shake off the cat, but the cat held on for dear life. After a (10) _____ assault on Scott's now bloody leg, the cat finally released Scott from its grip and took off. Scott limped back toward Jason, muttering not-very-kind comments about the "stupid cat." His face was very red.

Jason looked at his angry brother and smiled to himself. "I could get to love a cat like that one!"