

The Unwelcome Guest

Pre-reading

Questions:

- What do you think this story is about?

Definitions:

- Unwelcome – not invited; not greeted in a friendly way
- Scurry – to run quickly
- Droppings – dung of animals
- Transmit – to send or pass from one thing to another
- Cheap – having a low price



Reading

15 Late one night Ann heard some tiny feet scurry across the kitchen floor. It did
not sound good. The next day, she saw a small gray something **dash** under a door.
31 It did not look good. Who was this visitor?
40 Yes. It was a mouse. There was a mouse in Ann's house. She was not happy.
56 She did not like mice. Mice have beady eyes and long tails. They leave about fifty
72 droppings a day.
75 Mice harm homes. They **gnaw** on insulation inside walls and attics to build
88 nests. They also destroy paper, fabric, rugs, plastic, or anything that can be shredded
102 to make nests. Mice also harm people. They can transmit diseases. Food poisoning,
115 tapeworm, and ring worm are some of the many diseases mice can give to humans.
130 Ann set a mouse trap. A cheap wood one worked well. Ann also removed the
145 **clutter** in her home where mice like to nest. No more stacks of papers. No more
161 piles of junk.
164 Ann removed the mouse's food sources. She kept the counters and tables
176 clean. She put tight lids on both the human food and the pet food. All of these
193 efforts have made Ann's house mouse free!
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Understanding

1. Describe what a mouse looks like. _____

2. What does the word **gnaw** mean? _____

3. How can mice harm people? _____

4. What does the word **clutter** mean? _____

5. How did Ann get rid of the mouse's food sources? _____

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: Write about a time when a mouse was in your house.
