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

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. It did not look good. Who was this visitor?
Yes. It was a mouse. There was a mouse in Ann’s house. She was not happy. She did not like mice. Mice have beady eyes and long tails. They leave about fifty droppings a day.

Mice harm homes. They gnaw on insulation inside walls and attics to build nests. They also destroy paper, fabric, rugs, plastic, or anything that can be shredded to make nests. Mice also harm people. They can transmit diseases. Food poisoning, tapeworm, and ring worm are some of the many diseases mice can give to humans.

Ann set a mouse trap. A cheap wood one worked well. Ann also removed the clutter in her home where mice like to nest. No more stacks of papers. No more piles of junk.

Ann removed the mouse’s food sources. She kept the counters and tables clean. She put tight lids on both the human food and the pet food. All of these efforts have made Ann’s house mouse free!
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.