Get Out and Stay Out!

Pre-reading

Questions: What might this reading be about? Why do you think that?
Definitions: Potent – having great strength or power
Prevention – the act of keeping something from happening
Residue – something that remains after a part has been removed
Deny – refusing to give

Reading

They buzz or squeak. They eat your plants. They crawl around your house with more legs than you! “Out! I want them out of my house!” you think to yourself. A potent poison is one option, but it is often toxic to people, too – especially children.

You can get the pests out of your home and keep them out by using some prevention strategies. First, make sure your home is clean and dry. Many insects and rodents are attracted to food and water. Wipe up spills right away with soap and water.

Look around your kitchen. What’s on the counter? Keep ripe fruit in the refrigerator. Wash your dishes daily, or at least submerge them in soapy water until you can wash them. Make sure all food and drink containers are tightly sealed.

Take out your trash daily and keep garbage cans clean of food residue. Try to keep your floors clean, too. Sweep and vacuum often. Keep your kitchen and bathroom as dry as possible.

A second prevention strategy is denying access to new pests. Make sure entry points are sealed. Use silicone caulk to seal any cracks in baseboards, moldings, cupboards, pipes, ducts, sinks, and toilets. Place hole-free screens in front of heating and cooling vents. The average mouse found in homes can squeeze through a hole the size of a dime.

Denying pests food, shelter and access is key in solving a pest problem.
Understanding

1. What are the two main prevention strategies? ________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. What does the word toxic mean? ________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. What could you use to seal cracks in a home? ________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4. How often should dirty dishes be washed? Why? ________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

5. What other kitchen items attract pests? (List at least two things.) ________________________________
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   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

Writing

Choice A: Retell the story in your own words.

Choice B: Write about pests in your home. How do you safely get them out and/or keep them out?

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Get Out and Stay Out! – Level 3.5