

OLYMPIADS SCHOOL/ENGLISH IB/TOPS/MACS/CLASS 3 HANDOUT

NAME: _____

The following selection is the second half of Chapter 1 from a story about the adventures of Bridget, Barnaby, and Babette, and their feline friend Beauregard.

We have read about Babette, a French girl, who offers to help Bridget find her parents. Bridget is an American, and she has lost her parents in the Louvre. The two new friends then go to a dormitory where Babette's friend Barnaby, who is also American, lives. Babette believes that Barnaby may be able to help Bridget find her parents. A cat by the name of Beauregard follows the girls. Chapter 1 ends with Beauregard's point of view.

CHAPTER 1 (cont'd): THE FATEFUL MEETING

"Yes, well, er, as I was saying, at last we will defeat the creeping killers," Barnaby muttered.

"Man, something smells **foul** in here," said Bridget, wrinkling up her face. "What stinks?"

"Aha! You see? It works!" cried Barnaby, clapping his hands.

Bridget looked puzzled. "Are you nuts or something?"

"Not at all, not at all. Allow me to explain. What you smell are gym socks. Dirty gym socks that have been worn for an entire semester without a wash and left in a locker. You don't like the smell, eh?" asked Barnaby, smiling. He paused for a moment. "Well, let me tell you something. Bugs hate the smell. But it goes beyond a simple **aversion** to the smell of gym socks. They **detest** the smell so much they can't bear to come near it. It also **inhibits** the growth of some plant fungi, but it doesn't stop it altogether. Those socks even killed these mealy bugs," he said, wiping his hand off on his lab coat. "Yes, the day of the bug is over. No longer will these pests destroy crops and cause **famines**."

"Preventing starvation is a wonderful cause. But surely, Barnaby, there are not enough disgusting gym socks in the world to keep insects off all the crops," offered Babette.

"An **astute** observation. You're as sharp as ever. No, unfortunately, there aren't enough socks to go around. So I've been trying to capture the **essence** of the disgusting gym sock, the thing that makes it tick. Is it the odour of foot? The sweat? The toenail grime? Once I discover this I can use a variety of ingredients to create a **synthetic** spray that has the same effect as the real thing. It will be very **potent**. Oh, yes. No one will doubt its power. But it will not be poison."

Bridget rolled her eyes. Barnaby seemed a little full of himself, and **pompous** people always really **irked** her. "Look, my name's Bridget and Babette here thinks you can help me find my parents."

"So you've lost your parents, huh? I know exactly how you feel. Yes, you have my **sympathy**. I once lost my parents for an entire year. Or, rather, it seems I forgot to call them for an entire year while I was studying tropical bird songs in the Amazon rain forest. So you could say they lost me, I suppose. It's upsetting either way. Yes." Barnaby scratched his head. Bridget wasn't sure, but it looked as though he had pulled a wristwatch out of his bushy hair. Or maybe he already had the wristwatch. "Time to check the solution!" he cried.

The young scientist scurried over to a large beaker full of bubbling, smoking, grayish liquid and carefully calculated the temperature, all the while mumbling to himself. Then he filled an eyedropper full of bubbling blue liquid from another beaker and added it to the gray muck. Next, he **agitated** the unholy mixture by picking up the beaker and giving it a shaking so **vigorous** it made him break out in a sweat.

"Ladies," he announced, "you are about to witness scientific history!" With that he began a countdown. "Ten, nine, eight, seven, six..."

Barnaby never reached the end of his countdown. Around "four" a terrible rumbling began. Then an explosion. Then, a horrible, horrible smell.

"Quick! We must **vacate** the building at once! Out! Out!" shrieked Barnaby.

The girls and the cat were all too happy to **comply**. They ran out the door and down to the street. There they stopped to catch their breath (which they had been holding for a couple of minutes).

"Oh, what a stupid **blunder**!" gasped Barnaby. "How could I have made such a mistake?"

"There, there," said Babette, not very convincingly.

"It was my **ego** that made me do it. My foolish pride! I thought I was smarter than the great Vogelstellenstein, a scientist **renowned** the world over for his brilliantly simple discoveries! How I **envy** his genius! It was he who suggested cigar smoke as an insect repellent. Naturally, since cigar smoke is a **carcinogen**, I thought it was best not to encourage tanners to smoke in their fields, **lest** they develop lung cancer. How was I to know gym socks could be worse than cigars?" Barnaby seemed near tears.

"Look, don't sweat it. Um, I mean, quit worrying about it," said Bridget.

"Yes, I suppose you're right," he said, changing moods abruptly. "After all, I'm only an **amateur** when it comes to botany. My true profession is physics. Still, I do enjoy **dabbling** in the other sciences. But this little accident doesn't **bode** well for me. It's the third explosion I've caused this week, and the university said they'd have me sent home if I continued to destroy their property. I guess my announcement of my great discovery was **premature**. I must do many more tests to **verify** the results so that I can be absolutely certain they are correct. In the meantime, I should probably go try to straighten up."

"Nonsense," snapped Babette. "We have a more important matter to take care of. Let the university sort through all the broken glass and **debris**. We must find Bridget's parents."

"I apologize. Of course. Where do we begin?" asked Barnaby.

"I thought you were supposed to know that," said Bridget. She stared down at her sneakers sadly. This whole thing was beginning to seem hopeless.

"Come, Bridget, there is no need for such **dejection**," said Babette. "Barnaby is always full of good ideas."

"Naturally!" agreed Barnaby. "Now, let's see. If you want to cover a lot of ground, the best way is in the air! What we need is some kind of hot-air balloon. I could design one by tomorrow morning."

Bridget perked up at this idea. "A hot-air balloon, huh? Why didn't you say so? Let me show you two a little trick I picked up back home."

With that, Bridget began chewing her gum, her jaws and cheeks pumping furiously. Then she slowly blew a large pink bubble, bigger than a beach ball, toward the sky. And, to Babette and Barnaby's (and Beauregard's) amazement, she began to lift off the ground!

"Oh, my, you Americans are incredible!" cried Babette.

"How **convenient**," remarked Barnaby. "A hot-air balloon you can carry in your mouth!"

With a loud *smack*, Bridget sucked her gum back into her mouth and plopped back down in from of them. "How about it, guys? I can't look down very well while I do that. But if you hold onto me, you can look for me."

"Sounds fascinating," said Barnaby.

But just as they became airborne, Barnaby let out a squeal. "

"Aaaieeee! That cat just jumped on my leg!"

So we have a **feline** stowaway eh?" said Babette. "Careful, then, Barnaby. The last thing we need is to drop a hundred-pound cat on some innocent Parisian."

Soon, the four of them were floating above the rooftops of the city, eagerly searching for the misplaced parents. Unfortunately, they didn't notice the angry black clouds forming overhead.

You can see what I mean about those kids needing help, now, can't you? That Barnaby, for instance. He certainly knows how to put words together, but being **articulate** doesn't necessarily mean you have common sense. And Babette—well, she's obviously just out for a bit of excitement. She's not **naïve**, that's for sure, but even the most worldly-wise girl needs looking after now and again. Bridget? She seemed tough enough, all right, but I figured she just might have gotten a little big for her britches, if you'll pardon the expression.

And as for me, well, a **trauma** like that frightening gym-sock explosion should have been enough to **deter** me from any further involvement with that bunch of crazy kids. The decision to jump on Barnaby's leg was pretty **spontaneous**. I just saw them floating away, and the next thing I knew, I was floating away with them. It wasn't long after takeoff that I realized we might be in trouble. The sun was setting and the air was unusually **sultry** for a fall day, sticky and hotter than the Fourth of July. A **gust** of wind blew some damp air into my face, which I was grateful for at first. But then another gust came, and I realized it had started to rain—big, fat, heavy raindrops. Then, all at once, everything let loose. The air became so **turbulent** it felt as though we were riding a roller coaster. The rain came down in buckets I was reminded of the **monsoons** of southern Asia, those winds that brought such heavy rain. How well I remember the lazy evenings I used to spend in Bangkok, waiting out the storms with a beautiful, exotic...but I **digress**. Back to the subject.

The winds swirled around us faster and faster, until they built up such **velocity** I feared we would be thrown far off course. But there was nothing I could do except hold on tight (and hope Barnaby held on tight) and wait for the storm to die down. When it finally did, I almost wished we were still high in the air being whipped by wind and water. We had landed safely in a grassy field, but our relief quickly gave way to fear. We were immediately surrounded and taken prisoner—the helpless **captives** of the jackal army.

VOCABULARY

A) Fill in the blanks by matching the words in the box below with their definitions.

aversion	inhibits	astute	potent	comply	lest
renowned		dejection	turbulent	digress	

1. _____: Having great power or effect.
2. _____: For fear that.
3. _____: Prevents an action or process.
4. _____: A strong dislike.
5. _____: Showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people.
6. _____: Known or talked about by many people.
7. _____: A sad or depressed state.
8. _____: Act in accordance with a wish or command.
9. _____: Leave the main subject temporarily in speech or writing.
10. _____: (of air or water) moving violently.

B) Write down the definitions of the following words.

1. Feline: _____
2. Deter: _____
3. Synthetic: _____
4. Vacate: _____
5. Sultry: _____

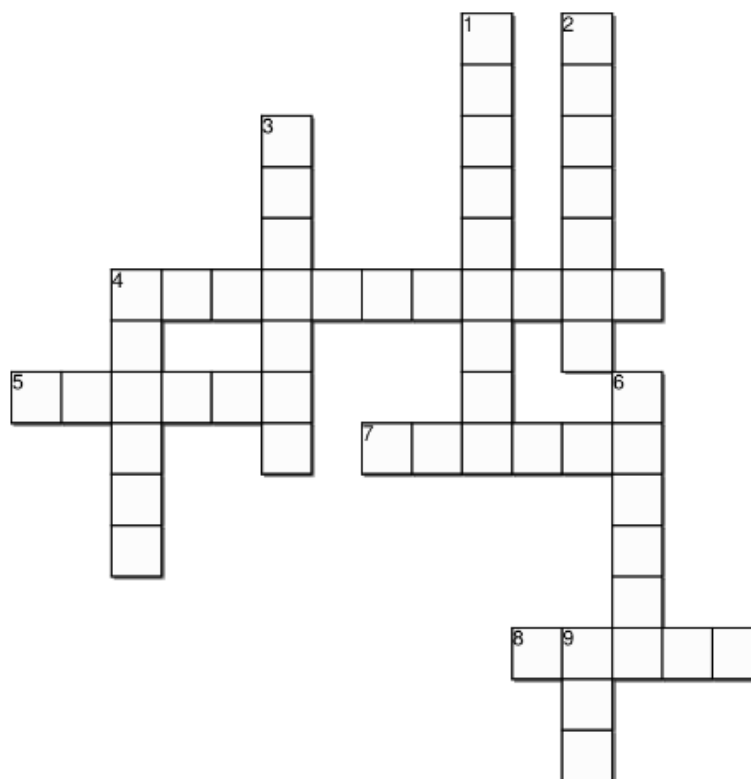
6. Detest: _____

7. Pompous: _____

8. Spontaneous: _____

C) CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Complete the crossword below



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

Across

4. Write out the speech in advance, but be prepared to not rely on the script so that you can sound _____.
5. Relating to cats.
7. It is time to _____ the premises and leave the locals alone.
8. The risk of cancer should be enough to _____ anyone from smoking cigarettes.

Down


1. Of a substance made by chemical synthesis.
2. Irritatingly grand or self-important.
3. A silly or careless mistake.
4. (Of the weather) hot and humid.
6. Many _____ their cruel leader, although none dare do so openly.
9. Avoid having your ego so close to your money that in the event that you lose your wealth, your _____ goes with it.

VOCABULARY MEMORIZATION AND FLASHCARDS

One of the best ways to study and remember words is to use flashcards. Have a stack of cards handy and write down any word that is new to you.

To make it even easier to remember, add some detail to the cards you carry around. Write the word on one side and the definition on the other side, of course. Then add a ridiculous picture or sentence to help you remember it. If you are drawing a silly picture, don't be afraid to draw a "crazy" picture.

Practice making a few flash cards here. The first two have been done for you. Use the remaining boxes to practice making flashcards for any four words from "The Fateful Meeting."

<p>carcinogen</p> 	<p>blunder</p> <p><i>OOPS, I DID IT AGAIN!</i></p>
<p>Your word: _____</p>	<p>Your word: _____</p>
<p>Your word: _____</p>	<p>Your word: _____</p>

SYNONYMS

Choose a word that matches a list of synonyms. A word should not be used more than once. The first two are done for you.

foul
aversion
detest
inhibit
famine

astute
essence
potent
sympathy
agitate

comply
ego
debris
dejection
trauma

articulate
spontaneous
sultry
velocity
digress

1. Upset, perturb, disturb, unsettle <i>agitate</i>	2. Sorrow, melancholy, depression, grief <i>Dejection</i>
3. Hot, muggy, oppressive, scorching, torrid	4. Psyche, self, self-admiration, self-pride
5. Crafty, insightful, intelligent, clever, sharp	6. Vile, stinking, nasty, rotten, filthy
7. Drought, misery, dearth, starvation, scarcity	8. Despise, hate, dislike intensely, abhor, loathe
9. Acceleration, momentum, pace, quickness	10. Adhere to, obey, conform to, submit, respect, agree to
11. Discourage, hinder, obstruct, restrain	12. Affinity, empathy, compassion, kindness, understanding
13. Great, strong, influential, commanding, mighty	14. Agony, ordeal, upheaval, anguish

15. Depart, ramble, wander, get sidetracked, go off on a tangent	16. Coherent, eloquent, expressive, fluent, well-spoken
17. Unplanned, instinctive, offhand, off-the-cuff, impromptu	18. Junk, remains, wreck, pieces, ruins
19. Allergy, loathing, hostility, hate, revulsion	20. Basis, bottom line, root, base, meaning

THE END