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Zombie Ants Lose Their Heads

When an adult phorid fly buzzes near a group of red fire ants, the ants scatter. Some ants run away while others snap their jaws at the fly as she hovers above them. / Suddenly the fly drops onto an ant, jabs a stinger-like barb into it, and injects an egg. The fly zips away, and soon the egg hatches a tiny maggot inside the ant. / The maggot releases a drug into the ant's brain that makes the ant crawl away from its nest to a pile of moist leaves. Then the maggot moves into the fire ant's head, killing it. / Soon the ant's head falls off its body with the growing maggot inside. Weeks later, a young phorid fly breaks out of the ant's head and flies away to look for more fire ants.



Multiple Sentence

Date: _____

Vocabulary to Visualize:

zombie: one who acts like a controlled robot

phorid: a type of fly

scatter: run in different directions

hovers: floats above the ground

injects: sticks an object into, as with a needle

maggot: the wormlike young stage of a fly

1

First and Second Sentences: When an adult phorid fly buzzes near a group of red fire ants, the ants scatter. Some ants run away while others snap their jaws at the fly as she hovers above them.

What did those words make you picture? _____

What did you picture for...

1. the fly hovering above the ants? _____

2. the ants scattering? _____

3. the ant's jaws snapping? _____

4. the sounds of the fly and the ants? _____

2

Third and Fourth Sentences: Suddenly the fly drops onto an ant, jabs a stinger-like barb into it, and injects an egg. The fly zips away, and soon the egg hatches a tiny maggot inside the ant.

What did those words make you picture? _____

What did you picture for...

1. the fly dropping? _____

2. where the fly jabs the ant? _____

3. the fly zipping away? _____

4. the egg hatching? _____

3

Fifth and Sixth Sentences: The maggot releases a drug into the ant's brain that makes the ant crawl away from its nest to a pile of moist leaves. Then the maggot moves into the fire ant's head, killing it.

What did those words make you picture? _____

What did you picture for...

1. where the maggot is? _____

2. the ant crawling? _____

3. the maggot moving into the ant's head? _____

4. the pile of leaves? _____

4

Seventh and Eighth Sentences: Soon the ant's head falls off its body with the growing maggot inside. Weeks later, a young phorid fly breaks out of the ant's head and flies away to look for more fire ants.

What did those words make you picture? _____

What did you picture for...

1. the ant's head falling off? _____


2. the maggot growing? _____


3. the young fly breaking out? _____


4. the fly looking for more ants? _____


Picture Summary:

Number your images in order. Here I saw...

 the fly injecting an egg into an ant and the egg hatching a maggot.

 the ant's head falling off and the fly breaking out to look for more ants.

 a fly hovering over red fire ants and the ants snapping their jaws.

 the maggot releasing a drug, the ant crawling to a pile of leaves, and the maggot killing the ant.

Write a Word Summary:

Critical Thinking

Main Idea:

Check the box that best describes all your images—the main idea.

- A fly hovers over a group of red fire ants and drops down onto one, stinging it and making its head fall off.
- A phorid fly injects its egg into a fire ant, which hatches into a maggot that drives the ant away from its nest, moves into the ant's head and grows into a fly.
- A fly egg hatches into a maggot inside an ant, and breaks out of the ant when it is a young fly.

HOTS Questions:

1. From what you pictured, why does the fly hover over the ants? _____

2. From what you pictured, why do some of the ants run away and others snap their jaws? _____

3. From what you pictured, why does the fly jab the ant? _____

4. From what you pictured, why does the maggot release the drug? _____

5. From what you pictured, why does the title of the story refer to "Zombie Ants"? _____

6. From what you pictured, why does the ant's head fall off? _____

Write a Story

Make up a fantastic story about a fly taking over a person's brain.

Did you use all of the Structure Words? Check each one you used.

- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> What | <input type="checkbox"/> Number | <input type="checkbox"/> Color | <input type="checkbox"/> Mood | <input type="checkbox"/> Background | <input type="checkbox"/> Perspective |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Size | <input type="checkbox"/> Shape | <input type="checkbox"/> Movement | <input type="checkbox"/> Where | <input type="checkbox"/> When | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound |