

Fraidy Cats by Stephen Krensky

VOCABULARY Be sure you understand the meanings of the words below from the book. Then complete at least one of the activities that follow.

crowded pleasant chased scared cute giant gentle fierce
tame rattled heaviest doomed frowned

- () Write about a scary event in your life. Were you home alone? Was there a storm? Were you lost in a store and could not find your parents? Use words from the list as possible.
- () Use each of the adjectives, words that describe nouns like *pleasant, cute, gentle*, etc. in a sentence. Next, use each of the verbs, words that show action like *crawled, chased, scared*, etc., in a sentence. The verbs are in the past tense, but you can use any tense you would like.

SIMILES The author uses two similes: “*This is a wild elephant with legs like tree trunks,*” and “*It [a dinosaur] is as big as a house.*” Both these similes compare two different things, the legs of an elephant are compared in size to trees and the size of the dinosaur is compared to a house. Both list the two things being compared and connect them with the words “like” or “as.” Now it is your turn to make some similes. Select any five of your friends or family members and write a simile that compares something about each person to something else. For example, I could write about my sister by saying, “*She is as slow getting up in the morning as a snail slithering across a tree branch.*”

SCARY THINGS Listen carefully to the night sounds at your house. Using the same pattern as Mr. Krensky, describe each sound and what it could be, such as a branch scratching the window or a lion trying to get into your house to raid the refrigerator. Have fun with this activity, but don’t scare yourself too much.

SCARY STORY Write a short children’s story that is scary but not really scary. Start with a topic that might scare a small child, such as the first night in a big bed, or taking a nap in a strange place, or the first night without a night light, or the first day of kindergarten, or the first time crossing the street alone, or Next, write about those scary feelings. Finally, show that there really is nothing scary in the event.



“THE THREE LITTLE PIGS” When Scamper and Sorry hear a loud “*WHOO!*” they think it is a wolf and wonder if it only likes to eat three little pigs. Read any version of “The Three Little Pigs” and see if you think this is the story the two fraidy cats are referring to in the book. Explain the connections, if any, in a one-paragraph essay.

DINOSAURS The fraidy cats finally feel safe when they are protected by a huge, plant-eating dinosaur. Time to research dinosaurs and complete one of the activities that follow.

- () Was there really a dinosaur called the ultrasaurus? If so, get more information about this creature. If not, what really was the biggest, heaviest dinosaur that ever lived? Display your information on a poster or a mini-bulletin board.
- () After completing research, select 10-15 dinosaurs, from the smallest to the largest that you find interesting. Make a chart listing them in order of size and giving at least five important or interesting facts about each.
- () Scamper remembers that the ultrasaurus was a herbivore (eats only plants). Did you know that others were carnivores (meat eaters) or omnivores (plant and meat eaters)? Make a three-column chart to show which dinosaurs were which, according to what they ate.