

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Level 3.5

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.) _____

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?
