

“Rikki-tikki-tavi” by Rudyard Kipling
Reading Warm-up B

Read the following passage. Pay special attention to the underlined words. Then, read it again, and complete the activities. Use a separate sheet of paper for your written answers.

Heather was paralyzed by the heat and humidity. She could not move, so she sat on the porch of the bungalow, sipping lemonade while the sun’s heat beat savagely down on the tile roof. The doors and windows stood wide open, welcoming every wayward breeze. That did not help much, though. There was hardly a breath of air. Occasionally, a beetle scuttled across the porch, but mostly the insects remained silent and still in the heat of the burning sun.

“So this is India,” thought Heather.

The bungalow in which she was staying belonged to her grandparents. Three days before, she had arrived for a month-long vacation. The house was near Calcutta, India’s largest city, a teeming hive of activity. Heather had never been to India before, but she had inherited her grandfather’s love of travel. She longed to see it all, from the parched desert to the snow-covered mountains. Still, she knew that the country was too vast to be seen in a lifetime, let alone a month’s vacation.

Heather’s family had lived here for generations. They had lived here when Great Britain ruled the country. Those days were long over, however. India gained its independence in the 1940s, after a valiant struggle against colonial rule. Many British politicians had scornfully predicted that India would not be able to rule itself, but they were wrong. The country is strong and thriving. Now the British return as guests, not as rulers.

Heather gazed from the porch that encircled the house, watching dark clouds blowing in from the Bay of Bengal. It would start to rain soon. Just the thought of rain revived her energy. Perhaps she would drive to Calcutta and explore the city. It was time to learn more, to see more.

1. Tell what paralyzed Heather. Circle the words that give the meaning of *paralyzed*.
2. Circle the phrase that tells where in the bungalow Heather is sitting. Write a sentence describing where you might see a *bungalow*.
3. Tell what beat savagely down on the roof. Use *savagely* in a sentence of your own.
4. Circle the word that tells what kind of insect scuttled across the porch. What is a synonym for *scuttled*?
5. Underline the phrase that tells what Heather inherited. Name something else that might be *inherited*.
6. Circle the word that tells what India gained after a valiant struggle. Write the meaning of *valiant*.
7. Underline the words that tell what was scornfully predicted. Use *scornfully* in a sentence.
8. Circle the words that tell what revived Heather’s energy. Tell what has *revived* your energy on a hot day.

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Vocabulary Warm-up B: Word List and Exercise

Study these words from “Rikki-tikki-tavi.” Then, complete the activity.

Word List B

bungalow [BUHNG uh loh] *n.* a small house

The bungalow was large enough to house just the two of them.

inherited [in HER it id] *v.* received a trait or possession passed down by one’s family

My brothers and I inherited our mother’s long, straight nose.

paralyzed [PA ruh lyzd] *v.* made someone or something helpless and unable to function

The venom of the black mamba temporarily paralyzed its prey.

revived [ri VYVD] *v.* brought someone or something back to consciousness

The paramedic revived the accident victim.

savagely [SAV ij lee] *adv.* fiercely; violently

The lion roared savagely before disappearing into the jungle.

scornfully [SKAWRN fuh lee] *adv.* expressing something in a way that shows dislike or disrespect

The unhappy employee spoke scornfully of the new manager.

scuttled [SKUHT uhld] *v.* ran or moved quickly with short steps

The little dog scuttled across the slippery floor.

valiant [VAL yuhnt] *adj.* brave or courageous

We honor the country’s valiant soldiers on Veteran’s Day.

Exercise B Answer the questions with complete explanations.

Example: If you are hurrying, are you taking your time?

No; hurrying means “rushing,” so I would not be taking my time.

1. If someone spoke scornfully to you, would you be pleased?

2. If you inherited your father’s looks, would you resemble your father?

3. If your jaw were paralyzed, would you be able to open your mouth?

4. If you lived in a bungalow, would you have room for a lot of guests?

5. If a friend did something valiant, would you admire her?

6. If someone scuttled away, would you think he or she was in no hurry?

7. If the wind was said to be blowing savagely, would you go outside?

8. If someone has been revived, is he or she asleep?
