

ANIMAL DEFENSES





Talk About It

How do animals defend themselves when they are scared or threatened?



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Vocabulary

glimpse	arousing
secluded	stunned
behavior	nestled
arroyo	unpleasant



Context Clues

You can figure out the meaning of an unfamiliar word by using **Context Clues** that appear within the same sentence. For example, “fishing” can help you figure out that *arroyo* means “stream.”

Nosey and the Porcupine

by Susannah Heil

Nosey knew that she was supposed to stay in the yard, but today the gate was left open. Every time the puppy moved her head to the left, she caught a **glimpse** of the woods up the street. She enjoyed this brief peek at the forest. It reminded her of the time her owners took her there when they went for a jog.

For Nosey there was nothing as wonderful as dashing among the trees and sniffing the flowers. The woods were **secluded**, hardly visited by people from outside the neighborhood. Nosey didn't think it would be a problem if she went exploring for just a little while. After all, she was called Nosey for a reason. Her name described her usual, day-to-day **behavior**.

Today she would have to be especially quiet on this secret outing. Her neighbor, Mr. Garcia, was out fishing in the **arroyo**. Lucky for Nosey she slipped by her neighbor and headed toward the woods without **arousing** his attention.

Soon after Nosey arrived in the woods, a butterfly landed on her nose. She reached for it with her paw, but it flew away. Then Nosey spotted it again on a berry bush. When she was within striking distance, she jumped. The butterfly fluttered out of Nosey's reach once more, but it was too late for the puppy to stop. She landed directly on top of the berry bush with a crash. At first, she was **stunned** by the sudden fall. Then she was shocked to find herself face to face with a sleeping porcupine! The porcupine was **nestled** snugly under the bush.

The arrival of a noisy visitor caused the porcupine to wake up. Nosey wasn't afraid of the small porcupine. However, she was curious. She had never seen a porcupine before so she gently sniffed at it with her

nose. By this time the porcupine had turned himself around. The quills on his tail were standing up, ready to be released. Suddenly Nosey found herself with a nose full of quills.

Nosey pawed at the quills, but they were firmly stuck. She had no choice but to head for home after this **unpleasant** experience. When Mr. Garcia saw her coming, he began to laugh. "Nosey," he said, "I see once again you've lived up to your reputation. You've had your nose exactly where it doesn't belong."



Reread for Comprehension



Evaluate Author's Purpose

An author writes to inform, persuade, inquire, or entertain. An Author's Purpose Chart helps you evaluate the information in a story to figure out the author's purpose. Use your Author's Purpose Chart as you reread the selection to find the author's purpose.

Clues	Author's Purpose
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