

Chapters 1–4

Vocabulary:

Part One:

Match the words in the left column with their definitions in the right column. Not all definitions will be used.

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| 1. ____ subside | a. having a bulky figure; thickset |
| 2. ____ refuse | b. to appear large or exaggerated |
| 3. ____ sheen | c. things discarded as trash |
| 4. ____ stout | d. shy; bashful |
| 5. ____ wistful | e. a clump of grass |
| 6. ____ tuffet | f. fastidious; cultivated; free from impurities. |
| 7. ____ looming | g. suddenly vanishing |
| 8. ____ refined | h. to become less active or agitated |
| 9. ____ leery | i. suspicious or wary; distrustful |
| | j. a glistening brightness |
| | k. full of wishful yearning |

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Part Two: Adverbs:

Adverbs are words that modify verbs. Verbs tell us the action; adverbs generally describe *how* the action was done. See the example below:

John was walking quickly.

The verb in the above sentence, *walking*, describes what John was doing. The adverb, *quickly*, describes how he was doing it.

One indication that a word is an adverb is presence of the suffix “ly.” But not all adverbs have this suffix. Consider the following sentence:

John was walking fast.

The adverb in this sentence also modifies the verb *walking* by describing how. In this case, the adverb, *fast*, doesn't end in “ly”.

Circle the adverb in each of the following passages. Then underline the verb it modifies.

1. Mario heard the sound too. He stood up and listened intently.
2. Silently Mario waited.
3. He went down and very gently began to lift off the papers
4. Mama paused. “Cricketeer,” she said scornfully. “What do we want with a cricketeer?”
5. “Yes,” said Chester. “I guess I’ll never see it again,” he added wistfully.
6. He shifted uneasily from one set of legs to another. “I’m a country cricket.”
7. A shadowy form that had been crouching silently below in the darkness made a spring and landed right next to Tucker and Chester.

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Setting:

1. The *setting* of a story is the time and place of the action in a story. The title of *The Cricket in Times Square* gives a hint about this story's setting. In what city is this story set? *Where* in the city is the story set?
2. A good author will do more than just *tell* readers where a story is set, he will help readers get a better sense of the setting through the use of descriptive writing. Descriptive writing is writing that appeals to the five senses. Descriptive writing will help readers understand how things in a story look, sound, taste, feel, and smell.

The following paragraph describes the many sounds one might hear in this setting. Find this paragraph near the end of the first chapter. Fill in the blanks with the missing words that describe the many sounds of the city.

Now Tucker Mouse had heard almost all the sounds that can be heard in New York City. He had heard the _____ of subway trains and the _____ their iron wheels make when they go around a corner. From above, through the iron grills that open onto the streets, he had heard the _____ of the rubber tires of automobiles, and the _____ of their horns, and the _____ of their brakes. And he had heard the _____ of voices when the station was full of human beings, and the _____ of dogs that some of them had on leashes. Birds, the pigeons of New York, and cats, and even the high _____ of airplanes above the city Tucker had heard.

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3. Look again at the previous paragraph. What do you think a setting like this would be like? Would you enjoy being in this place? Why or why not?

Writing Assignment:

Take a notebook and go to a particular place in your home, your classroom, or outside somewhere. Sit quietly and listen to the different sounds. Write one or two paragraphs describing this setting by describing the many sounds you hear.

Questions:

1. What is the Bellinis' family business?
2. Why did the Bellinis keep the cash register open all the time? How did they keep the money safe at night when the stand was closed?
3. What was the sound Tucker Mouse heard that he had never heard before in the city?

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4. What does Mario do with Chester Cricket when he finds him on the subway floor?

5. Why does Mama Bellini want Mario to get rid of the cricket? Why is the cricket allowed to stay?

6. How did Chester Cricket get to New York? How does Chester feel about being in New York?

Thinking About the Story:

7. Why do you think Paul bought a newspaper from Mario? Why do you think he didn't wait for the change from his purchase?

8. What does Tucker do the moment he hears that Chester likes liverwurst? What does this tell you about Tucker's character?

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9. Why is Chester afraid he won't get along in New York?

Dig Deeper:

10. Chester finds himself in a new city, far from home and far from anything familiar. Has your family ever moved to a new city or town? If so, you most likely had to leave behind friends and familiar places. How did you feel about moving? How did you make new friends?
11. Read Deuteronomy 31:8 and Psalm 139: 7–10. Who is the one who will never leave you no matter where you might move?
12. Do you think it's necessary to have friends? Read Ecclesiastes 4:9–12. According to these verses, why is it good to have friends?
13. How do Harry and Tucker make Chester feel welcome in the city? How can you help welcome others who feel out of place or lonely?