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Building Vocabulary Through Literature

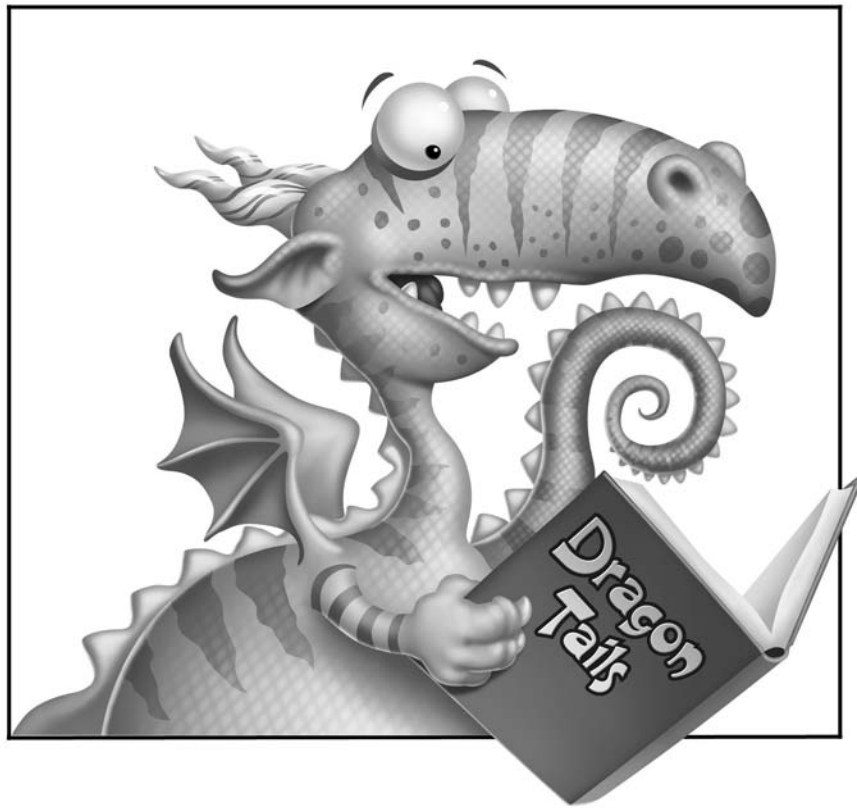
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Building Vocabulary Through Literature



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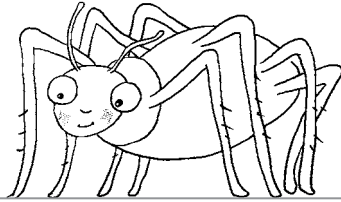
# Lesson 1

## Exercise 1 Be a Word Master

Look at the ten words in the box. These are the Master Words you will learn in this lesson. Underline the words you already know. Next, read the selection below. Pay special attention to the Master Words in bold type. Be ready to talk about these words in class.

### Master Words

<b>blundered</b>	<b>horror</b>
<b>careless</b>	<b>inheritance</b>
<b>detested</b>	<b>miserable</b>
<b>furiously</b>	<b>plunged</b>
<b>gloomily</b>	<b>trough</b>



from *Charlotte's Web*  
by E. B. White

A fly that had been crawling along Wilbur's **trough** had flown up and **blundered** into the lower part of Charlotte's web and was tangled in the sticky threads. The fly was beating its wings **furiously**, trying to break loose and free itself.

"First," said Charlotte, "I dive at him." She **plunged** headfirst toward the fly. As she dropped, a tiny silken thread unwound from her rear end.

"Next, I wrap him up." She grabbed the fly, threw a few jets of silk around it, and rolled it over and over, wrapping it so that it couldn't move. Wilbur watched in **horror**. He could hardly believe what he was seeing, and although he **detested** flies, he was sorry for this one.

"There!" said Charlotte. "Now I knock him out, so he'll be more comfortable." She bit the fly. "He can't feel a thing now," she remarked. "He'll make a perfect breakfast for me."

"You mean you *eat* flies?" gasped Wilbur.

"Certainly. Flies, bugs, grasshoppers, choice beetles, moths, butterflies, tasty cockroaches, gnats, midges, daddy longlegs, centipedes, mosquitoes, crickets—anything that is **careless** enough to get caught in my web. I have to live, don't I?"

"Why, yes, of course," said Wilbur. "Do they taste good?"

"Delicious. Of course, I don't really eat them. I drink them—drink their blood. I love blood," said Charlotte, and her pleasant, thin voice grew even thinner and more pleasant.

"Don't say that!" groaned Wilbur. "Please don't say things like that!"

"Why not? It's true, and I have to say what is true. I am not entirely happy about my diet of flies and bugs, but it's the way I'm made. A spider has to pick up a living somehow or other, and I happen to be a trapper. I just naturally build a web and trap flies and other insects. My mother was a trapper before me. Her mother was a trapper before her. All our family have been trappers. Way back for thousands and thousands of years we spiders have been laying for flies and bugs."

"It's a **miserable inheritance**," said Wilbur, **gloomily**.



## Exercise 2 Write Definitions

Use the dictionary at the back of this book to write a definition for each Master Word below. Remember, you probably won't find words that end in *-ed* or *-ly* as main entries in the dictionary. Look under **blunder** for the word *blundered* and under **furious** for *furiously*.

1. **blundered** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **careless** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. **detested** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. **furiously** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. **gloomily** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. **horror** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. **inheritance** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. **miserable** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. **plunged** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. **trough** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Word Attack! Context Clues

When you see a word you don't know, the words around it can help. These words give you clues to the word's meaning. For example, in the passage from *Charlotte's Web*, the words *trying to break loose and free itself* help you understand what *furiously* means. Practice using context clues in the exercise that follows.

## Master Words

blundered	horror
careless	inheritance
detested	miserable
furiously	plunged
gloomily	trough

### Exercise 3 Use Context Clues

Choose the Master Word from the box that best completes each sentence. Write the word on the line. Then circle the words that give you context clues. The first one has been done for you.

1. There were leftover bits of (hay and oats resting on the edge) of the horse's  
\_\_\_\_\_ *trough* \_\_\_\_\_.
2. After he \_\_\_\_\_ into the middle of their argument, he wondered how he could have made such a foolish mistake.
3. They had never felt so cold, lonely, or generally \_\_\_\_\_ in their lives.
4. His shaking hands and the fear in his eyes showed the \_\_\_\_\_ he tried to hide.
5. "No!" he cried \_\_\_\_\_. "I am far too angry to calm down."
6. My friend's lovely laugh and good sense of humor are an \_\_\_\_\_ from her mother.
7. However much he had \_\_\_\_\_ the man in the past, he could no longer hate him after all these years.
8. In their usual \_\_\_\_\_ way, they had failed to think through the details of the plan.
9. His mood was sad as he sat \_\_\_\_\_ waiting for the bad news to come.
10. She \_\_\_\_\_ into the crowd, startling everyone with her sudden movements.

## Exercise 4 Use Synonyms

Circle the word or phrase below each sentence that means the same as the Master Word in the sentence.

1. Her job was to dump the food scraps into the pigs' **trough**.

shelter      feedbox      garbage

2. She **plunged** ahead even though she was afraid and wanted to hold back.

rushed      swam      hesitated

3. Athletic ability was the **inheritance** he received from his grandfather.

good luck      something handed down      something needed

4. She meant no harm. It was simply a **careless** mistake.

planned      cruel      thoughtless

5. They **blundered** in and had trouble getting out of the messy situation.

walked quietly      accidentally got involved      protested with eagerness

## Exercise 5 Find Word Relationships

Below are groups of words. Think about what the words in each group have in common. Then choose a Master Word that best fits in each group. Write the word on the line.

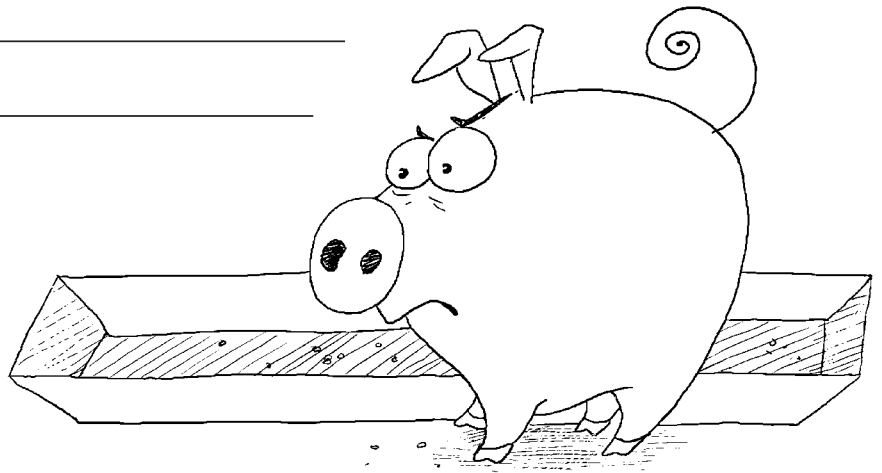
1. sad, unhappy, upset \_\_\_\_\_

2. angrily, fiercely, violently \_\_\_\_\_

3. fear, terror, shock \_\_\_\_\_

4. sadly, hopelessly, joylessly \_\_\_\_\_

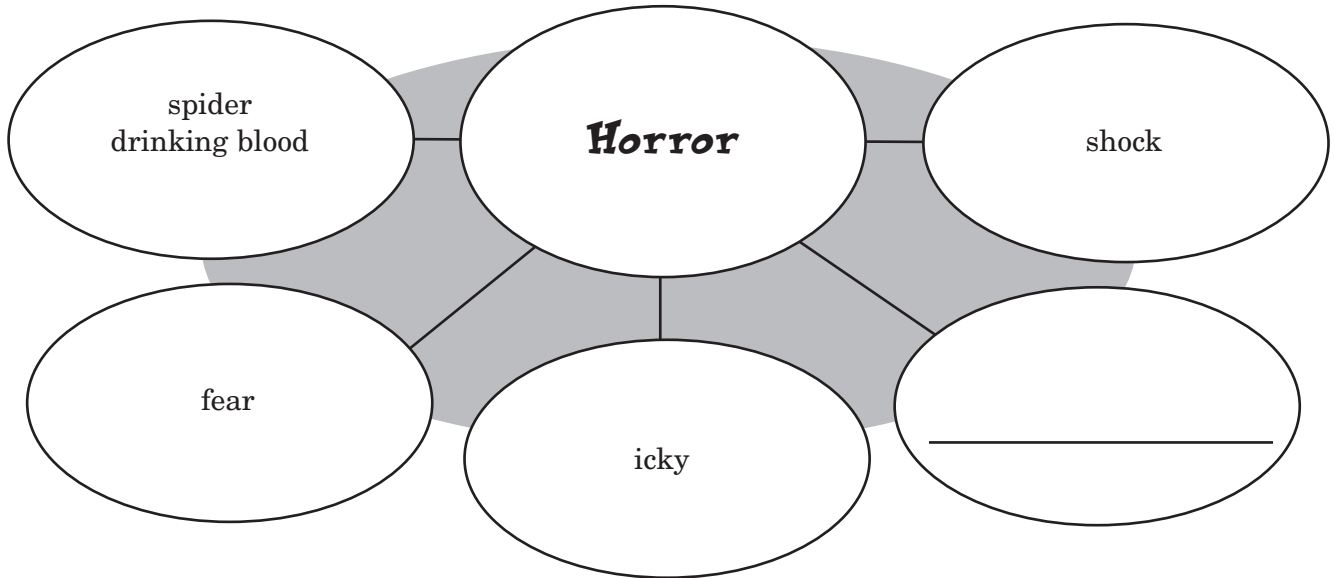
5. hated, disliked, scorned \_\_\_\_\_



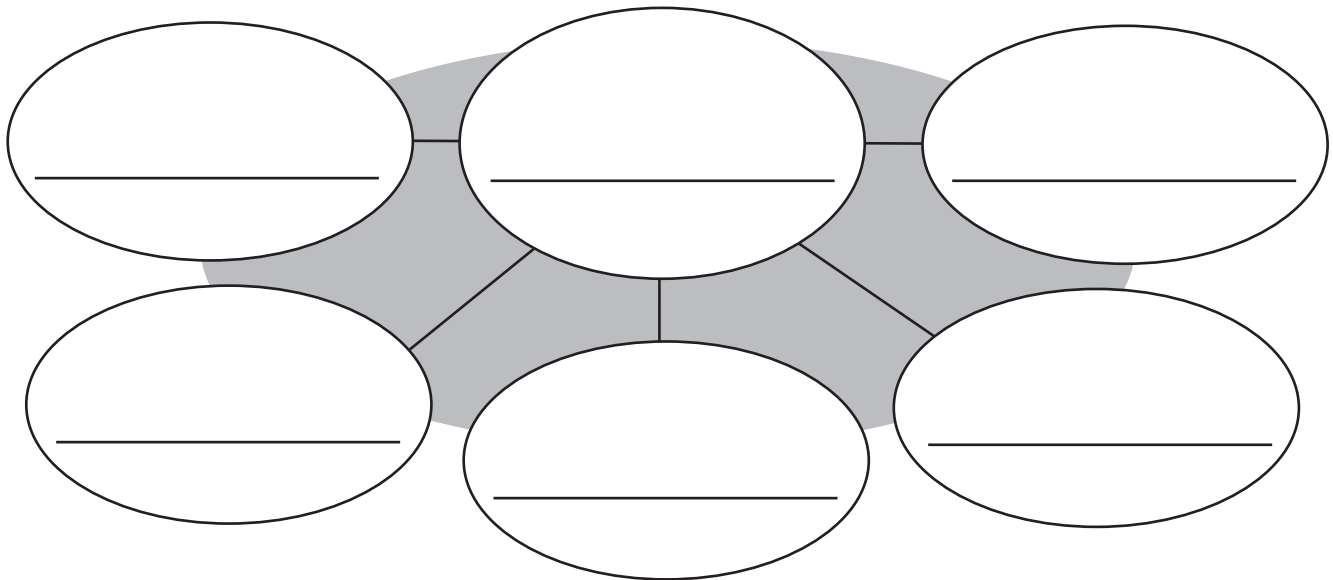


## Exercise 6 Word Graphics: Word Web

A word web can help you think about what you've learned. Look at the web below. The Master Word *horror* from this lesson helped you understand Wilbur's feelings about Charlotte's life. Finish the web and then create one of your own using a different Master Word.



### Your Web



**Write Now!** Imagine that you've had a nightmare. On a separate piece of paper, use as many Master Words as you can in a description of your dream.

## Exercise 7 Word Play: Word Search

Find each of the Master Words in the word search puzzle below. Words may be written across, down, backward, or diagonally.



### Master Words

blundered	horror
careless	inheritance
detested	miserable
furiously	plunged
gloomily	trough

O	Y	T	G	I	P	H	F	R	R	W	F	K	E	L
V	W	L	E	L	O	N	W	X	O	V	J	U	L	H
K	P	E	S	R	O	V	R	K	N	F	B	I	B	G
C	J	G	R	U	T	O	M	R	F	I	N	M	A	S
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Q	R	I	W	V	S	I	R	I	E	B	N	Z	E	A
V	A	G	F	Q	W	N	R	R	L	O	Q	F	S	R
P	C	B	M	K	B	G	I	U	S	Y	U	P	I	V
Z	H	X	F	V	U	T	J	S	F	H	Q	L	M	S
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J	H	C	C	D	E	T	E	S	T	E	D	G	S	V
W	E	E	O	R	H	G	U	O	R	T	I	E	M	Z
N	Q	E	A	F	Y	B	C	I	E	W	I	D	X	Z
C	X	C	M	H	G	I	P	D	Q	Y	Y	U	N	V

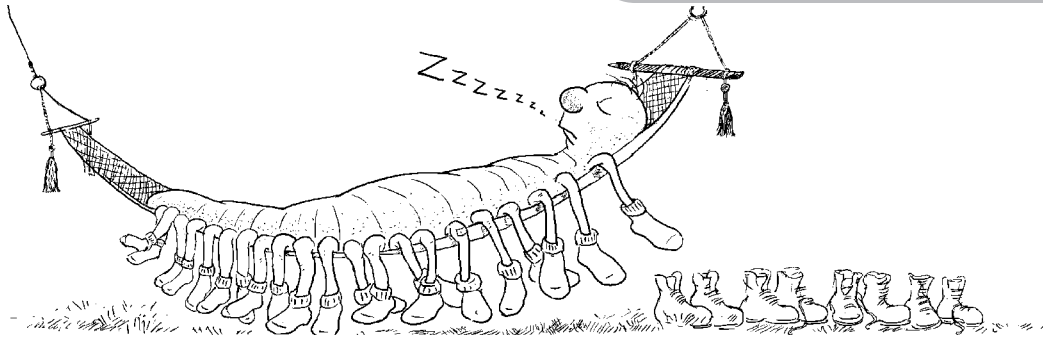
# Lesson 16

## Exercise 1 Be a Word Master

Look at the ten words in the box. These are the Master Words you will learn in this lesson. Underline the words you already know. Next, read the selection below. Pay special attention to the Master Words in bold type. Be ready to talk about these words in class.

### Master Words

<b>ambled</b>	<b>frantically</b>
<b>coiled</b>	<b>hammock</b>
<b>complicated</b>	<b>mumbling</b>
<b>crouching</b>	<b>snoring</b>
<b>drowsily</b>	<b>wheezing</b>



from **James and the Giant Peach**

by Roald Dahl

James worked away **frantically** on the Centipede's boots. Each one had laces that had to be untied and loosened before it could be pulled off, and to make matters worse, all the laces were tied up in the most terrible **complicated** knots that had to be unpicked with fingernails. It was just awful. It took about two hours. And by the time James had pulled off the last boot of all and had lined them up in a row on the floor—twenty-one pairs altogether—the Centipede was fast asleep.

"Wake up, Centipede," whispered James, giving him a gentle dig in the stomach. "It's time for bed."

"Thank you, my dear child," the Centipede said, opening his eyes. Then he got down off the sofa and **ambled** across the room and crawled into his **hammock**. James got into his own hammock—and oh, how soft and comfortable it was compared with the hard bare boards that his aunts had always made him sleep upon at home.

"Lights out," said the Centipede **drowsily**.

Nothing happened.

"Turn out the light!" he called, raising his voice.

James glanced round the room, wondering which of the others he might be talking to, but they were all asleep. The Old-Green-Grasshopper was **snoring** loudly through his nose. The Ladybug was making whistling noises as she breathed, and the Earthworm was **coiled** up like a spring at one end of his hammock, **wheezing** and blowing through his open mouth. As for Miss Spider, she had made a lovely web for herself across one corner of the room, and James could see her **crouching** right in the very center of it, **mumbling** softly in her dreams.

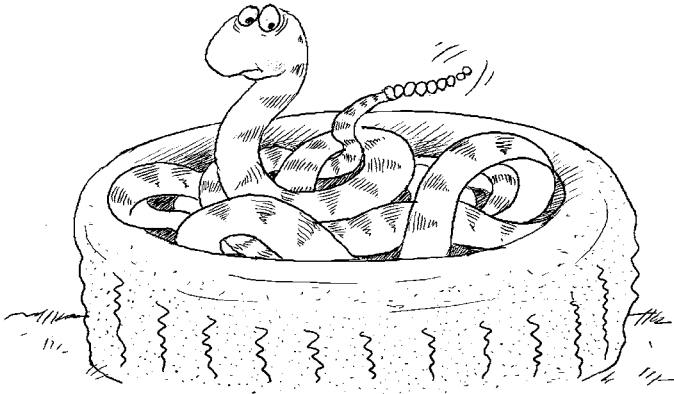
## Exercise 2 Write Definitions

Use the dictionary at the back of this book to write a definition for each Master Word below. Remember, these words will be listed as base words. You will seldom find words ending in *-ed* or *-ing*. Look under **crouch** to find *crouching*.

1. **ambled** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. **coiled** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **complicated** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. **crouching** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **drowsily** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. **frantically** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. **hammock** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. **mumbling** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. **snoring** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. **wheezing** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 3 Use Context Clues

Choose the Master Word from the list that best completes each sentence. Write the word on the line. Then circle the words that give you context clues.



### Master Words

ambled	frantically
coiled	hammock
complicated	mumbling
crouching	snoring
drowsily	wheezing

1. The snake was \_\_\_\_\_ inside the tire; its loops made it hard to guess its length.
2. He rocked lazily in the \_\_\_\_\_, enjoying the light breeze.
3. They got in each other's way searching \_\_\_\_\_ for the missing key.
4. It was a beautiful spring day, and nothing worried her as she \_\_\_\_\_ slowly through the sunlit park.
5. She couldn't sleep because her friend was \_\_\_\_\_ loudly in the next bed.
6. The classroom was warm and the lesson was dull. She looked \_\_\_\_\_ out the window instead of paying attention.
7. He was clearly not well, coughing and \_\_\_\_\_ as if he could not catch his breath.
8. The route was full of \_\_\_\_\_ turns, so they followed the map closely.
9. He thought he was hidden from view, but they could see him \_\_\_\_\_ behind the bush.
10. The old man was \_\_\_\_\_, so we couldn't make out what he was saying.



## Word Attack! Synonyms

Synonyms are words or phrases that have the same or similar meanings. *Shy* and *bashful* are synonyms, as are *pity* and *sympathy*. When you come across new words, a good way to understand and remember them is to think of synonyms for them. You may not know the word *coiled*, but you probably know what *rolled* means. Practice using synonyms in the exercise that follows.

### Exercise 4 Use Synonyms

Circle the word or phrase below each sentence that means the same as the Master Word in the sentence.

1. She climbed **drowsily** into bed, forgetting to turn out the light.  
sleepily      frantically      gloomily
2. The two friends **ambled** home from school, taking their time and enjoying being together.  
raced      crept nervously      walked slowly
3. He threw his clothes on, **frantically** worried that he would be late.  
calmly      happily      wildly
4. He didn't know how to explain. The reasons were so **complicated** that he wasn't sure his friends would understand.  
clear      difficult      lucky
5. The child was **crouching** down to tie his shoe when the dog ran into him.  
bending      jumping      crying

### Exercise 5 Find Word Relationships

Draw a line connecting each Master Word on the left to the word group on the right that it fits with best.

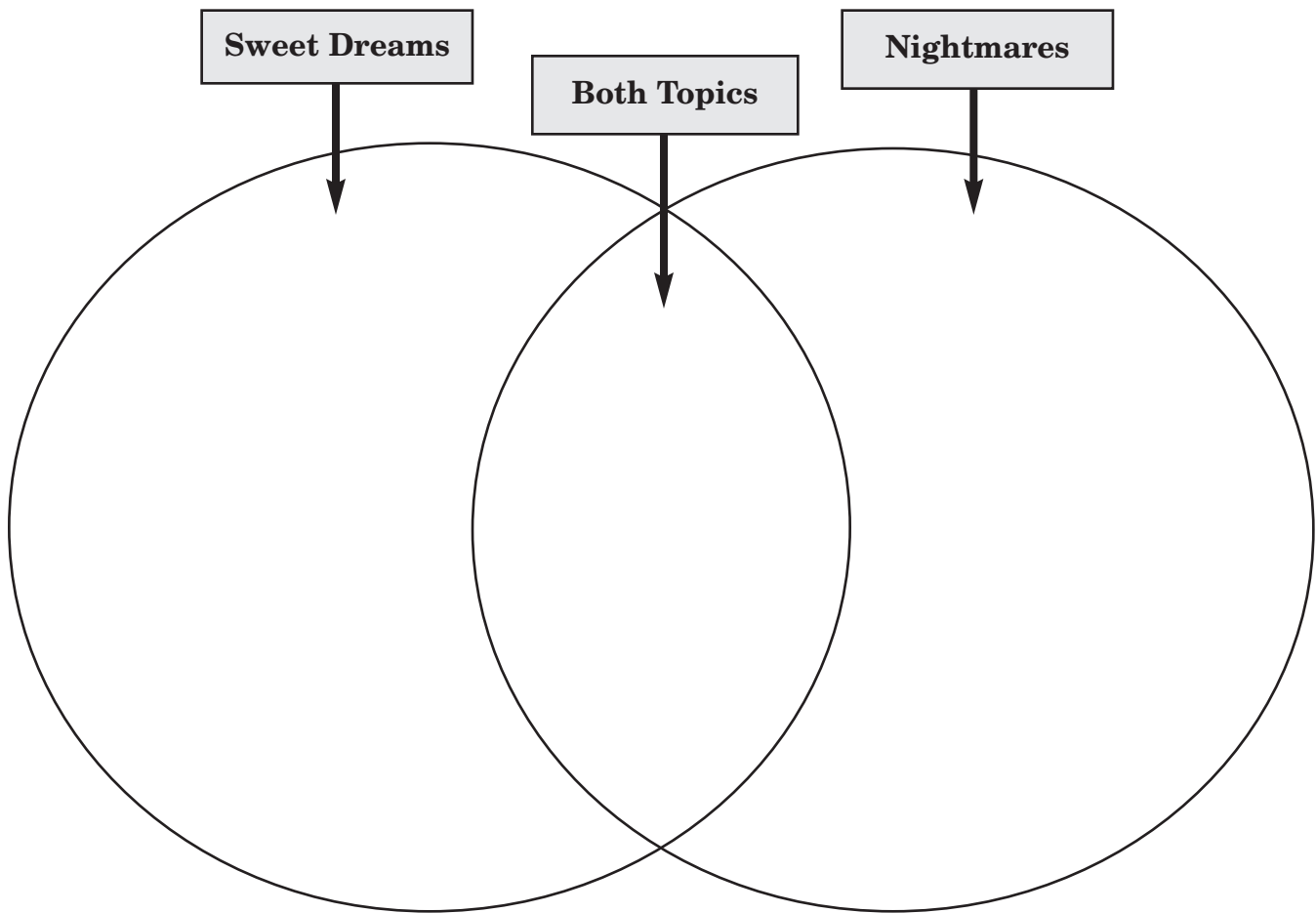
<b>coiled</b>	coughing, sneezing, choking
<b>hammock</b>	snake, rope, hose
<b>mumbling</b>	bed, cot, bunk
<b>wheezing</b>	sleeping, dreaming, napping
<b>snoring</b>	talking, muttering, whispering

## Exercise 6 Word Graphics: Topic Circles

Some words fit together to suggest a topic or idea. For example, if you were talking about a picnic, you might use words like *blanket*, *sandwich*, *ants*, and *grill*. The topic circles below are labeled “Sweet Dreams” and “Nightmares.” List the Master Words that you might use in describing each. Then list the Master Words that might relate to both topics.

### Master Words

ambled	complicated	drowsily	hammock	snoring
coiled	crouching	frantically	mumbling	wheezing



**Write Now!** Help! Your father has too much pressure at work and is very nervous. On another sheet of paper, write your plan to help him have a relaxing Saturday afternoon. Use as many Master Words as you can.

## Exercise 7 Word Play: Letter Tiles

Rearrange the letter tiles to form definitions of the Master Words. The number of words in each definition is given in parentheses. The first one is done for you.

### Example

**complicated** (1 word)

if	d	lt	cu	fi
<i>d</i>	<i>if</i>	<i>fi</i>	<i>cu</i>	<i>lt</i>

**ambled** (2 words)

lk	lo	ed s	wly	wa

**hammock** (3 words)

lot	han	ed	ging c	h b

**coiled** ( 3 words)

o loo	led i	ps	rol	nt