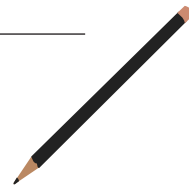


Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Fill in the Blanks with Vivid Vocabulary



**Directions:** Use the vocabulary words in the word bank to fill in the blanks and complete the story. Use each word only once. Use a dictionary if you need help.

dread	squinting	abruptly	dashing	nervously	flushed	passage
retrieve	shadowy	squealed	gasping	cramped	menacing	chuckled
encounter	cautiously	perched	toss	fuzzy	impatiently	relieved

“Come on! \_\_\_\_\_ the ball over here!” \_\_\_\_\_ Kendra, excitedly.

I threw the ball as hard as I could, but instead of sailing towards Kendra’s wildly waving arms, it flew sideways and dropped \_\_\_\_\_, falling into the small, \_\_\_\_\_ gap between the house and the garage.

“Oh man!” I groaned, staring \_\_\_\_\_ in the direction of the ball. I knew that it was up to me to \_\_\_\_\_ the ball, since I had thrown it, but as I slowly walked towards the garage, I felt a pit of \_\_\_\_\_ forming in my stomach.

“Hurry up!” yelled Kendra \_\_\_\_\_.

I dragged my feet and the gravel crunched beneath my shoes. I peeked \_\_\_\_\_ into the narrow \_\_\_\_\_, searching for the ball in the dim light. Suddenly I spotted it in the shadows, just a few feet from the small opening where I was standing.

“I see it!” I shouted and I began inching my way into the \_\_\_\_\_ space, reaching blindly towards the ball.

As I crept forward, \_\_\_\_\_ my eyes, I felt something soft and \_\_\_\_\_ brush against my arm.

“AHHHHHH!” I shrieked, \_\_\_\_\_ out of the dark tunnel, “A monster!” I ran, \_\_\_\_\_ all the way back to the lawn and stood shaking, \_\_\_\_\_ to be alive after my close \_\_\_\_\_ with what was surely an incredibly \_\_\_\_\_ beast.

Kendra pulled a feather from my sleeve and laughingly asked, “Is this your monster?”

My cheeks \_\_\_\_\_ as I turned and looked back towards the garage. A tiny robin was \_\_\_\_\_ on the eaves just above our lost ball.

“I guess I overreacted,” I shrugged, giggling.

Kendra \_\_\_\_\_ and said, “C’mon, we’ll go get the ball together.”