

Reading Street Sleuth

Unit 1

The Meeting

It was a typical night in New Mexico—cool, arid air and stars shining bright in the sky. Only one thing made this night different from the others. A meeting was going on and all the desert creatures were there.

The Black Widow was the first to speak. “The desert can be a scary place so it is essential that we are all able to defend ourselves. I can spin a sticky web. If I’m disturbed, I can rush forward and inject poisonous venom into the disturber. I can even suck out the liquid contents of my victim’s body. What can the rest of you do to defend yourselves?”

The rest of the desert creatures thought about what they each could do to defend themselves.

“Everyone’s afraid of monsters!” stated Gila Monster proudly. “Instead of basking in the sun, I’ll sneak up on an intruder. Then, with one deadly bite, they’ll be done for.”

Fire Ant spoke up next. “When attacked, I call in my army of ants. With little warning, we swarm the intruders, and then we bite them and sting them! We might be little, but we are mighty aggressive!”

The Rattlesnake spoke up, although he really preferred to keep to himself. He shared that, when threatened, he slithers up and sinks his sharp fangs into intruders that come too close.

Tarantula added to the discussion. “Unlike other spiders, I don’t trap my prey in sticky webs. Instead I use my large legs to grab them and then turn on them with my sharp fangs, injecting poison.”

Tarantula then turned to Cone-nose bug and suggested that his famous deadly kiss is likely his best defense.

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African Honey Bee buzzed into the meeting, just arriving back home from an extended safari. The small bee took center stage. “My colony is well trained in defense,” buzzed African Honey Bee. “We have poisoned more enemies than all of you combined. It’s our pleasure to rid these foothills of any intruders.”

The meeting ended with everyone knowing they could do their part in defending themselves. Then they all had a restful and safe sleep.