

UNIT OVERVIEW

Runaway Ralph

A Novel Study

OVERVIEW

This novel study provides teachers with a highly structured format for teaching language arts as students develop a love for reading longer materials like novels. Various areas such as reading comprehension, vocabulary development, spelling, grammar, and writing are all entwined in this integrated approach, eliminating the need for teaching these skills separately. Activities are divided into three main sections:

1) *Chapter Questions*

For each chapter, students answer a thorough set of questions requiring answers in complete sentences. Reading comprehension is key as students must read and understand the *entire* book in order to answer the questions. (One major strength of the novel study approach is that students *must understand* the novel or they will be unable to do the required assignments.)

2) *Vocabulary and Language*

Each chapter also includes activities dealing with such things as word meanings, use of the dictionary, spelling, parts of speech, antonyms/synonyms, syllables, punctuation and grammar.

3) *Writing and Creativity*

In this section, students apply what they have learned about language and grammar skills to write more effectively. Creative writing is the focus of this less-structured segment, allowing teachers more opportunity to incorporate their own ideas into developing creative writing skills.

*****Note*****

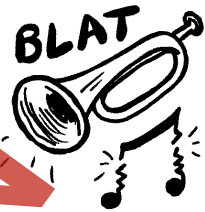
Page numbers are included with some of the unit activities. The page numbers listed are from the Avon Camelot paperback (November 1991) edition of the novel, "*Runaway Ralph*".

EVALUATION

Teachers can use the optional marking form provided or devise their own. Certain assignments, especially in the *Vocabulary and Language* section are well suited to marking by students. However, it is important that teachers mark assignments requiring answers in complete sentences to monitor student progress in this crucial area.



CHAPTERS 1 - 2
Questions



Chapter 1 "Ralph Hears A Distant Bugle"

- Who is Ralph?

- Where does Ralph live?

- Where did Ralph get his motorcycle?

- What strange music did Ralph hear at 9 o'clock?

- What was written on Garf's t-shirt?

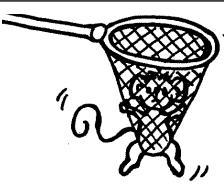
- Who is Matt?

- Why do you think that Garf is rather unhappy?

- The Sierra Nevada Mountains run through half the length of California. These mountains are a single block of granite that rises gradually from the west and then drops off sharply on the east side, where its escarpment towers nearly 3,500 metres above the valleys.

Between Mount Whitney and Lake Tahoe is the true High Sierra, a land of granite, glacial ice and alpine lakes. At heights of 2,000 to 3,000 metres along the western side are forests of pine and fir, groves of giant sequoias, wildflower-covered meadows, and v-shaped river canyons.

Using an atlas, draw and label the Sierra Nevada Mountains on this map of California.





CHAPTERS 3 - 4
Vocabulary and Language



- Choose the correct meanings of the underlined words.
 - The gopher had nearsighted eyes. _____ -can only see close things
 - The dog went off on his round of inspection. _____ -was frightened and could not believe his ears
 - The gopher was a very grouchy fellow. _____ -thinking about all the good and bad things
 - The cold-hearted tomcat had his paw on Ralph. _____ -dug all through piles of everything
 - "Better a new than a paw", thought Ralph, philosophically. _____ -search around everything
 - The woman rummaged around on the shelves. _____ -couldn't take his eyes off it
 - Ralph summoned up his courage to try the wheel. _____ -let its claws stick out
 - Ralph was stunned by the song that Garf sang. _____ -does not care about other's feelings
 - He thought he was doomed to a life of loneliness. _____ -not in a good mood
 - The camp was full of counselors. _____ -people who plan the kids' activities
 - Ralph watched the cat paw with total fascination. _____ -got up his nerve and tried to be brave
 - The cat unsheathed its claws. _____ -simply no way out and no hope left

- On the blank before each sentence, write T for TRUE or write F for FALSE:

- _____ Gopher was happy to have a mouse share his home. 
- _____ Ralph hid his motorcycle in some corn husks.
- _____ Ralph was awakened by a large cat.
- _____ Ralph was tossed into the air.
- _____ The kittens liked to play scoop-and-toss.
- _____ Garf caught a butterfly in his net. 
- _____ Ralph was put into a cage.
- _____ The girls at the camp fed the mouse.

- Write the plural (more than one) for each word listed below:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| a) mouse _____ | b) paw _____ |
| c) sandwich _____ | d) child _____ |
| e) butterfly _____ | f) creature _____ |
| g) gopher _____ | h) man _____ |
| i) cage _____ | j) thief _____ |
| k) leaf _____ | l) woman _____ |





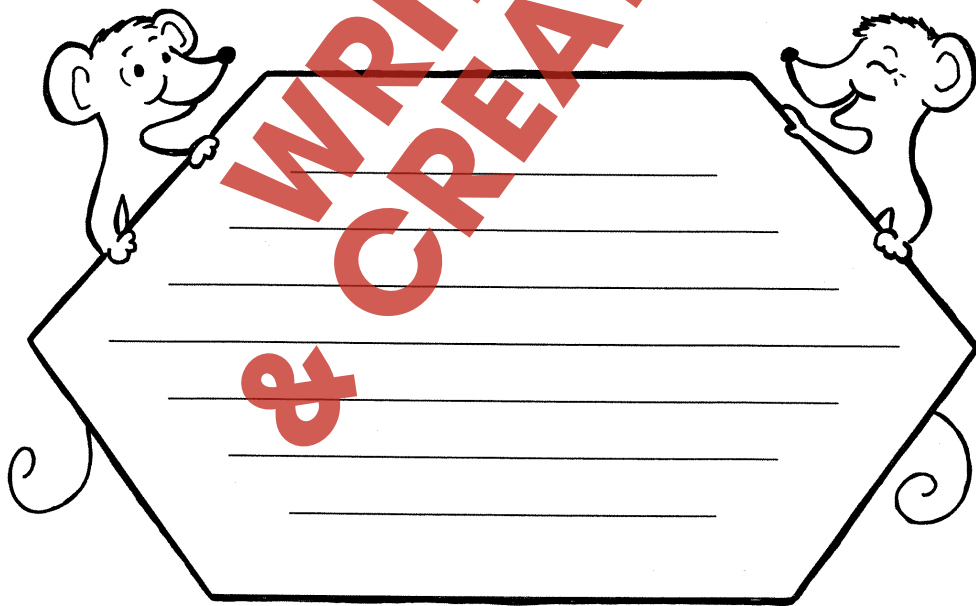
CHAPTERS 5 - 6
Writing and Creativity



1. Write a **DIAMONTE** poem about Ralph, the mouse. The **DIAMONTE** is fun and easy to write. The purpose of the poem is to go from the subject at the top (beginning) down to an opposite subject at the bottom (end).

- Line 1 - one noun (subject #1)
Line 2 - two adjectives about #1
Line 3 - three "ing" words about #1
Line 4 - four nouns (2 about #1 and 2 about subject #2)
Line 5 - three "ing" words about #2
Line 6 - two adjectives about #2
Line 7 - one noun (subject #2)

Cat
Clever, cuddly
Crouching, pouncing, purring
Meow, feline, canine, bark
Running, sniffing, yelping
Lovable, smart
Dog



HAMSTERS

Chapter 5 - 6 Writing and Creativity - Activity #5

Hamsters are small, furry, chunky rodents. Most of them have a short tail and large cheek pouches in which they can carry a large amount of food. There are about 15 kinds of hamsters.

Most hamsters like to live alone. They are active at night. They like to have separate places to store food, to sleep, and to leave body wastes. They eat fruits, seeds, green vegetation and, in the wild, small animals and insects.

Hamsters are mammals. They give birth to a litter of live young after 16 - 20 days gestation. They have 6 - 7 young. Pet hamsters can have a litter once a month. Newborn hamsters are totally helpless and are cared for by the mother for about three weeks.

Hamsters are good pets because they are easy to care for and they seldom bite. Pet hamsters need a cage lined with wood shavings, dried grass, or any absorbent material. They may be fed fruits, greens, raw vegetables, small grains, rolled oats, and some meat. They need fresh water. Pet hamsters can live for three to four years.

MICE

A mouse is a small animal with soft fur, a pointed snout, round black eyes, rounded ears, and a thin tail.

Many kinds of rodents (gnawing animals) are related to mice. These include rats, hamsters, gerbils, jerboas, lemmings, voles, harvest mice, deer mice, and grasshopper mice. All of these rodents have chisel-like front teeth that are used for gnawing. A rodent's front teeth keep growing all their life. They keep them worn down by chewing.

Mice live all over the world. They live in mountains, fields, woodlands, swamps, and deserts. Mice live wherever people live. They often build homes in human houses, barns, or garages.

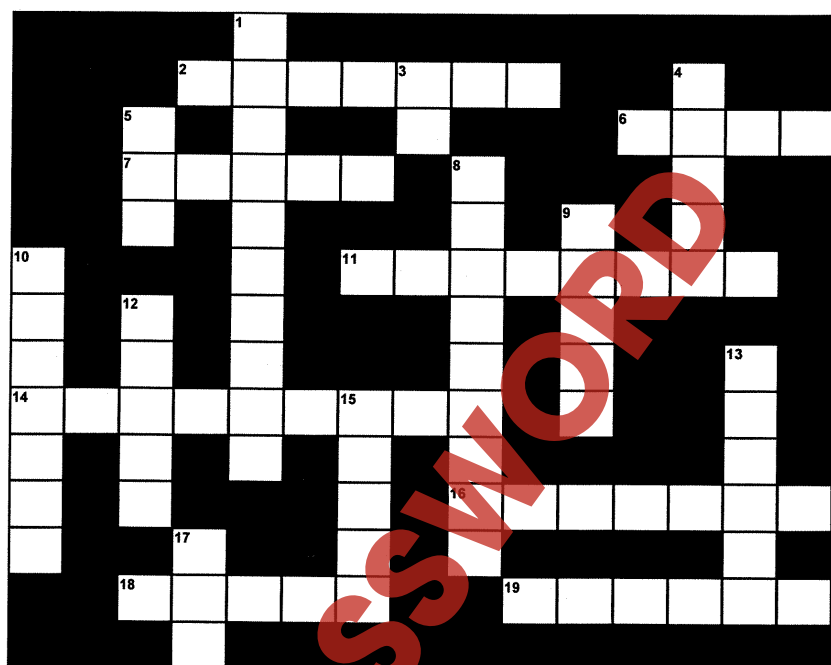
Mice eat both plants and animals. Those that live outside eat insects, roots, leaves, and seeds. Mice that live inside, eat anything that humans eat. They will also eat glue, leather, paste, and soap.

A mouse's house is a little nest that is lined with grass or fur or cloth. A female mouse is able to have a litter of 4 - 7 babies every month. Newborn mice are naked, blind, and helpless. When they are three weeks old, they leave home.

Enemies of mice are people, cats, dogs, coyotes, snakes, foxes, owls, and hawks. Wild mice live only about 3 months because they have so many enemies. A house mouse might live for a year if it is well hidden. A pet mouse could live for up to 6 years because it would be well-fed and free of enemies.

RUNAWAY RALPH Crossword Puzzle

Name: _____



ACROSS

2. Mice and hamsters are _____.
6. He wasn't guilty of theft!
7. What Garf really wanted to be.
11. Sam is the camp's _____.
14. Chum's favourite seeds.
16. Garf never wanted to make another one!
18. _____ gave Ralph the motorcycle.
19. Chum is this colour.

DOWN

1. Ralph rode this!
3. Did the gopher like Ralph?
4. _____ broke into the craft shop.
5. Poison _____ made Karen itchy!
8. Garf caught Ralph in a _____ net.
9. Ralph exercised on this.
10. Chum is a _____.
12. Garf sang scary _____.
13. Ralph was afraid he was going to _____.
15. This was stolen!
17. Did Ralph speak to Garf?

EVALUATION
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Chapters	Questions	Vocabulary and Language	Writing and Creativity	TOTAL
1 & 2	_____	_____	_____	_____ = %
3 & 4	_____	_____	_____	_____ = %
5 & 6	_____	_____	_____	_____ = %
7 & 8	_____	_____	_____	_____ = %
9	_____	_____	_____	_____ = %

TOTAL _____ = %

COMMENTS

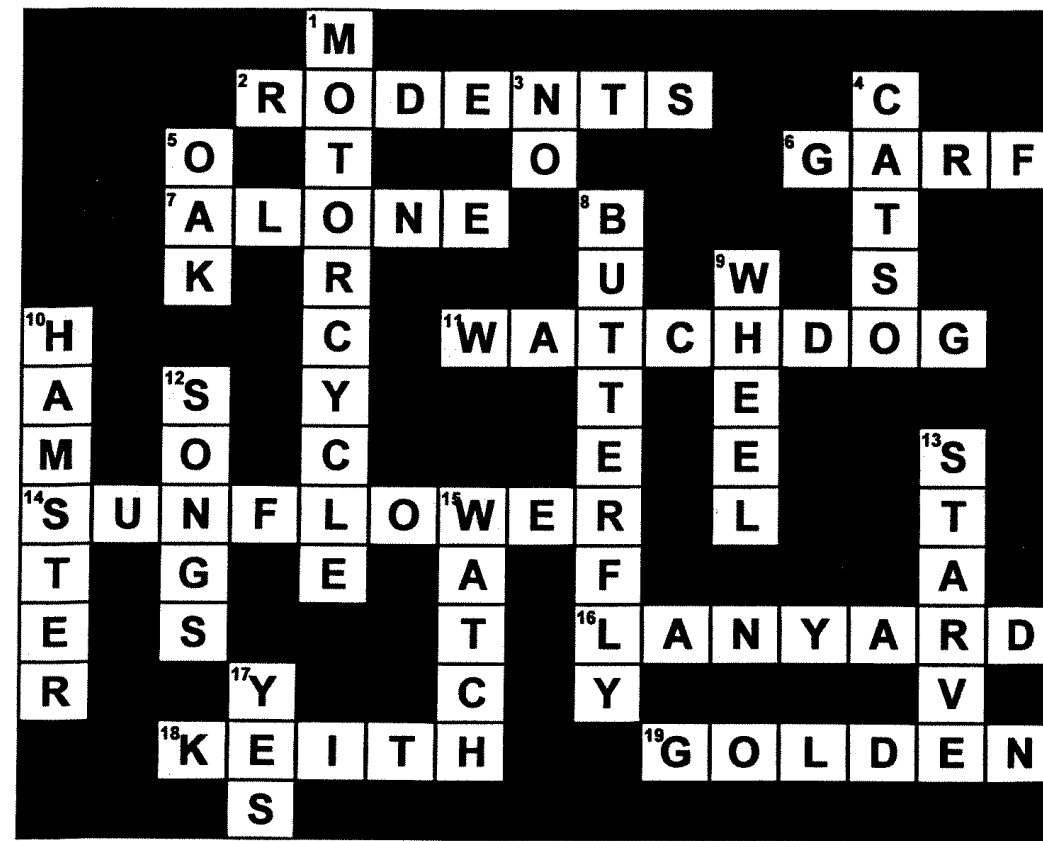
RUNAWAY RALPH Word Search

Name: _____

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

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|------------|
| AUNT | CLAWS | HELMET | MOTORCYCLE |
| BUGLE | ESCAPE | HIGHWAY | MOUSE |
| CAGE | GARF | HOME | RALPH |
| CAMPERS | GNAW | KAREN | SAM |
| CATSO | GOPHER | KITTENS | SELFISH |
| CHUM | HAMSTER | LOBBY | THIEF |

CROSSWORD ANSWER KEY



WORD SEARCH ANSWER KEY

