

Vivid Words

The writer of “A Letter to the Editor” uses words that create powerful, vivid images to persuade others that DDT is a harmful chemical. Understanding the words that Ms. Huckins uses in her letter will make her ideas clearer and more meaningful.

alleged	stated as truth, but unproven	lethal	capable of causing death
havoc	very great destruction	corpse	a dead body
wrought	made happen; brought about; formed	splayed	spread apart
placid	calm; peaceful	voracious	eating great amounts of food
assurance	that which inspires confidence	intolerable	impossible to put up with

Write the word from the word box that could be associated with each phrase.

- a quiet meadow _ _ _ _ _
- caused something to happen _ _ _ _
- a crime that has supposedly occurred _ _ _ _ _ _
- a condition a destructive hurricane might create _ _ _ _
- a painful toothache _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- a guarantee that the laborers will be safe _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- a hawk’s ruffled feathers _ _ _ _ _ _
- a poison _ _ _ _ _ _
- a hungry tiger _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
- a lifeless fish washed up on the beach _ _ _ _

Now write the boxed letters in order on the lines below to explain the purpose of Ms. Huckins’s letter.

Olga Owens Huckins wanted to _ _ _ _ _ .

Challenge



Look up the following sets of words in a dictionary: *placate* and *complacent*; *corporate* and *corps*; and *carnivore*, *herbivore*, and *omnivore*. On a separate sheet of paper, explain how the meanings of these sets of words are related to the meaning of a word in the word box. Then write seven sentences, using one challenge word in each sentence.