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DON'T BUG ME

The Story in Brief

Zack and his family have just moved to a new town. His father is trying to establish his own pest control business. Zack doesn't mind that his dad is owner of the Squish 'Em Squad. But he does mind the gigantic ant perched on the top of the truck. And to make matters worse, it's the middle of the school year. Zack isn't very outgoing, so making new friends will be a real challenge.

When Zack's father drops him off at school the first morning, Zack is embarrassed. The other kids point and snicker at the truck. One boy in particular gives Zack a hard time. Sam is in several of Zack's classes, and he can't resist calling Zack "Bug Boy." Zack feels everyone is against him except his new friend Terry.

Zack's social problems are compounded because he must spend his spare time helping his father at work or baby-sitting. Zack is his father's only helper. When the business starts making money, his father has promised to hire someone to help. Zack can't wait for that day to come. He loves football. But he can't play because

practice and games are after school, and he has to work. The football field is the one place Zack feels he can prove himself and get even with Sam.

Zack is able to put Sam in his place sooner than expected. When a "mouse" shows up in the room next to his English class, Zack knows just what to do. Using knowledge he gained while working with his dad, Zack explains that the intruder is really a rat. He tells Mrs. Ames exactly how to get rid of it.

The next day, Zack challenges Sam to remove the dead rat from the cupboard, since Sam had bragged that he wasn't afraid of rats and mice. When Sam becomes squeamish about handling the rat, Zack makes him a deal. Zack will remove the rat and place it in a plastic bag if Sam will quit calling him names. Sam reluctantly agrees.

Later that day, Zack learns that his father is going to hire someone to help with the business. Zack realizes that maybe the move hasn't been so bad after all.



Name _____

DON'T BUG ME

Chapter 1

Finding Base Words

Each word below has been made by adding an ending such as *-ly*, *-ed*, or *-ing* to a base word. On the blank beside each word, write the base word.

Example: hated _____ *hate*

1. hanging _____

2. laughter _____

3. quickly _____

4. sides _____

5. stared _____

6. taken _____

7. counselor _____

8. timing _____

9. sipped _____

10. shoes _____

11. classes _____

12. helpful _____

13. slammed _____

14. faster _____

15. lockers _____

16. rudely _____

17. balding _____

18. thudded _____

19. tightened _____

20. driving _____



Name _____

DON'T BUG ME

Chapter 1

Using Long Vowels

Read the words in the word box. Each word contains a long vowel sound. Say the words to yourself and listen for the long vowel sounds. Then read each sentence. Choose a word from the word box to complete each sentence. Write your answer on the blank line.

phone	straight	smiled
teenagers	slowly	teased
bright	only	behind
style	replied	

Example: Zack was the _____ *only* _____ kid starting school in the middle of the year.

1. Zack saw the _____ pointing at the truck.
2. Zack's father _____ at his son.
3. Bill _____ to Zack's question.
4. The doors closed _____ Zack when he entered the building.
5. Zack's dad placed an advertisement in the _____ book.
6. Zack _____ walked to his first class.
7. It wasn't Zack's _____ to speak first.
8. Zack walked _____ to an empty desk.
9. No one had _____ Zack at his old school.
10. Sam made fun of the _____ yellow bug truck.