

Unit 12 - The Space Rock

besides
corner

damp
flap

gravity
pale

reflect
skill

steady
tower

12A Introduction

This is a goofy story about two kids who do something that you should never do. They find a glowing green rock that seems to be from another planet. And they eat it! What will happen to them? Read along and find out.

12B Song Lyrics

So maybe one day you were looking up in the sky, right? You see something fly by, and you don't know what it is?

One day Kim and her buddy Levan
Were walking home from school, arm in arm.
They stopped by the **corner**; that's the spot,
Where two streets meet, right on the dot.
There was something on the ground that **reflected** light,
It made the light bounce off and hit their eyes.
It wasn't a mirror; it was a shiny green rock,
It wasn't hard; it was really kind of soft.

Kim said, "You think this is from outer space?"
Levan said nothing; he just took a taste.
He took a bite from the rock right away,
Kim said, "Are you crazy? What's wrong with your brain?
You fool! Are you all right?
Your skin is getting **pale**, kind of light!"
Levan tried to stay **steady**, not shake forth and back,
But his head started spinning, and more than that...

I mean, **besides** that he began to turn green,
His skin was glowing; he cried, "Why me?"
Kim, she didn't know what to do,
She probably should have **reflected** and thought things through.
Instead, she did the first thing she thought,
She also took a bite out of the rock!

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She didn't want Levan to be green by himself,
What will happen to the two friends, do they need help?

*It's a bird! It's a plane! It's...wait!
Is it a ship from outer space?
It's Kim and Levan; they've got it going on,
When you see them coming, say, "Oh, yeah!"
(x2)*

They did more than turn green,
They also got superpowers, know what I mean?
I guess the green rock gave them **skills**,
Things they can do, um, very, very well.
See Kim and Levan could fly,
And I don't mean on American Airlines.
No, they didn't need to hop on a plane,
They could fly, but they'd stop if it rained,

And their clothes got **damp**, a little bit wet.
To them, flying was sweeter than a cinnamon stick.
They'd fly to the **towers**, the tall buildings,
And **tower** high above most people's ceilings.
Gravity is what keeps our feet on the ground,
But not even gravity was bringing them down.
They bought capes; they had to be green,
That would shake like a flag, I mean **flap** in the breeze.

And if someone stole money or cheese,
They would get a call from the chief of police.
They'd fly down fast; you know how it's done,
They'd **corner** the robber; he'd have nowhere to run.
And when the streets get sleepy and dark,
From the stores to the homes to the creepiest parts,
They keep the city so safe and calm,
Standing on skyscrapers, it's Kim and Levan.
C'mon!

*It's a bird! It's a plane! It's...wait!
Is it a ship from outer space?
It's Kim and Levan; they've got it going on,
When you see them coming, say, "Oh, yeah!"
(x2)*



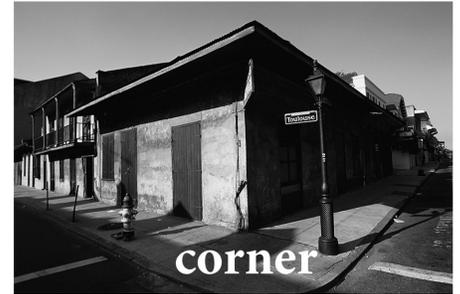
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12C Words Defined

besides / corner / damp / flap / gravity / pale / reflect / skill / steady / tower

besides

(adverb/preposition) Besides means “also” or “in addition to.” You can use the word besides when you’ve already said something, but want to say more about it. **Besides** being a smart and friendly dog, Barney was very cute.



corner

(noun) A corner is the place where two walls or two streets meet. *I met my friend at the **corner** of Main Street and Blossom Street.*

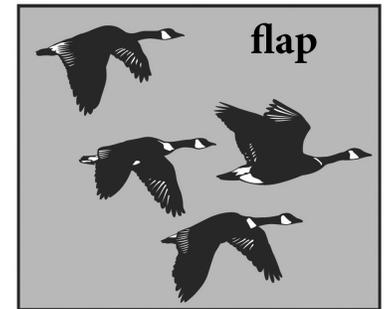
(verb) When you corner someone, you stand so that it’s hard for him to get away. *The police finally **cornered** the tiger that had escaped from the zoo.*

damp

(adj) If something is damp, it is a little bit wet. *The grass felt **damp** the morning after the big storm.*

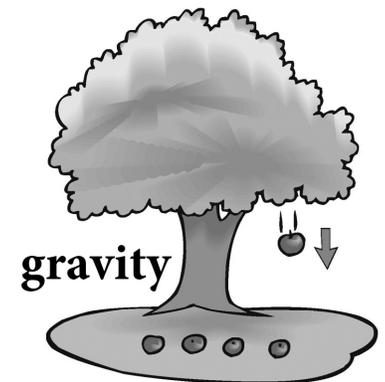
flap

(verb) If something flaps, it moves back and forth or up and down through the air. *The bird **flapped** its wings and rose into the sky.*



gravity

(noun) Gravity is the force on our planet that pulls things toward the center of the Earth. It’s what makes things fall when you let go of them. All planets and stars have gravity. *The apple dropped to the ground because of **gravity**.*



pale

(adj) Something that is pale does not have very much color. *Colleen had very **pale** skin. It looked like she never went out in the sun.*

reflect

(verb) 1. If something reflects light or sound, it makes the light or sound bounce off of it. *The bright light **reflected** off the windows.*

2. If you reflect on something, you think about it for a while. *The teacher asked the students to **reflect** on why it is important to help others.*

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skill

(noun) If you have skill in something, it means you can do that thing very well because you've practiced it or been trained in how to do it. *Playing basketball well takes a lot of **skill** and hard work.*



steady

(adj) 1. If something is steady, it is firmly in place and isn't going to tip over. *My dad told me to never climb up a ladder unless it is **steady** and doesn't rock back and forth.*

2. Steady means that something happens again and again without too many breaks. *Dalonte had a job walking dogs in his neighborhood, but the work wasn't **steady**. It only happened every once in a while.*

tower

(noun) A tower is a tall building or a thin, tall part of a building. *Irene had to climb up many stairs to get to the top of the **tower**.*

(verb) To tower is to rise high in the air above other things. *Joseph was the tallest kid in his class. He **towered** over all of the other students.*



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12D Synonyms

besides / corner / damp / flap / gravity / pale / reflect / skill / steady / tower

Circle the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word or phrase on the left.

- | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. very light in color | damp | steady | pale |
| 2. the force that pulls things to the Earth's center | skill | gravity | tower |
| 3. to think about something for a while | flap | tower | reflect |
| 4. also | besides | tower | corner |
| 5. a tall building | corner | gravity | tower |

Name: _____ Date: _____

12E Fill in the Blank

besides / corner / damp / flap / gravity / pale / reflect / skill / steady / tower

Write the word in the blank so that the sentence makes sense.

1. The flag was _____ in the wind.

flapping

cornering

towering

2. My dad has great cooking _____. Everyone loves when he makes dinner.

gravity

corners

skills

3. My sneakers felt _____ after I walked in the puddle.

steady

damp

pale

4. After my mom fixed the chair, it was very _____ and didn't wobble anymore.

steady

pale

damp

5. My mom asked me to put the chair in the _____ of the room.

tower

gravity

corner

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12F Connections

besides / corner / damp / flap / gravity / pale / reflect / skill / steady / tower

Each sentence has a strong connection with one of the words from the unit. Write the correct word on the line below.

1. The plant fell out of the window. It dropped straight down into the parking lot.

2. Jennifer Lopez is a great singer, but she's also a good actress.

3. A bird uses its wings to fly.

4. My dog's fur was wet when he came inside from the rain.

5. Tara's skin was very light. She needed to put on sunscreen when she went outside.

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12G Applying Meanings

besides / corner / damp / flap / gravity / pale / reflect / skill / steady / tower

Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.

1. The gerbil got scared and hid in the **corner** of his cage. Where was the gerbil hiding?
(A) under the bed
(B) outside of his cage on the sidewalk by the street
(C) in the middle of his cage
(D) in the back of his cage where the two sides come together
2. Which place would you expect to see **towers**?
(A) in the forest
(B) in the city
(C) in the country
(D) on a farm
3. Sharan's mom told him to go to his room and **reflect** on what he did. What does that mean?
(A) She wants Sharan to think about what he did.
(B) She wants Sharan to clean his room.
(C) She wants Sharan to take a nap.
(D) She wants Sharan to play a game with his brother.
4. A sign says that the camp is only for **skilled** baseball players. What does that mean?
(A) The camp is for kids who have never played baseball before.
(B) The camp is for kids who are not very good at baseball.
(C) The camp is for kids who are very good at baseball.
(D) The camp is for kids who do not need a lot of help with catching.
5. Marco is looking for a **steady** job. What does that mean?
(A) He is looking for a job that doesn't make him fall over.
(B) He is looking for a job that he goes to every day.
(C) He is looking for a job that he goes to once in a while.
(D) He is looking for an easy job.

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12H Reading

besides / corner / damp / flap / gravity / pale / reflect / skill / steady / tower

Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

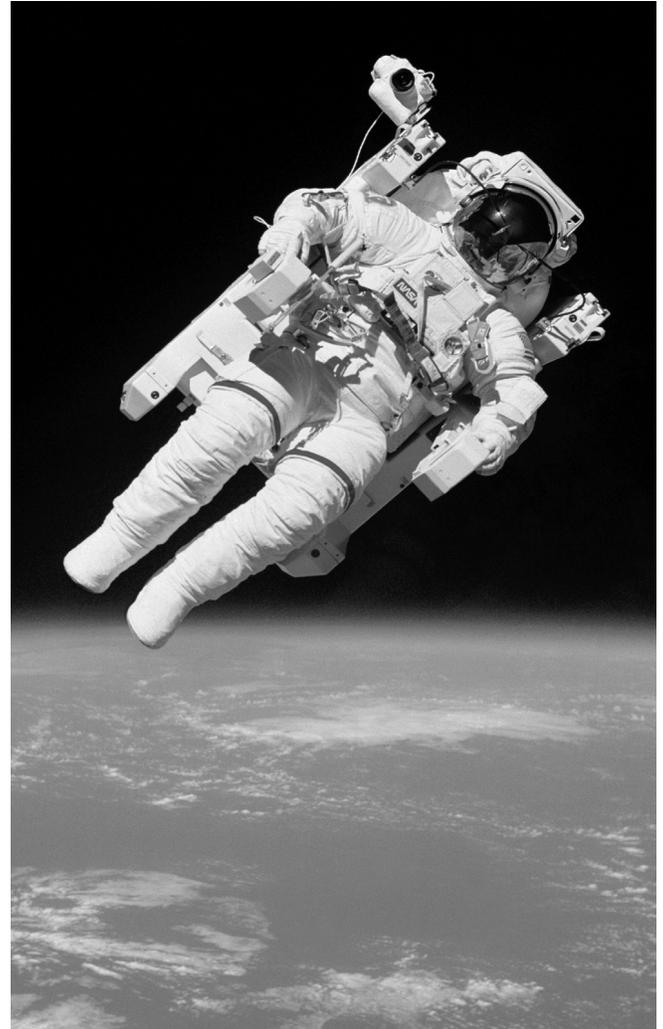
Becoming an Astronaut

Do you love technology, science, and adventure? If so, you would probably love being an astronaut! Have you ever sat down and **reflected** on how someone actually becomes an astronaut? It's not easy. It takes a lot of hard work. Astronauts have many **skills**. They have to learn a lot before going into space. It takes many years of training to become an astronaut.

Astronauts have to go to college to study math or science. **Besides** going to college, astronauts need to have **steady** work for three years in a job. They also need to pass tests that show they are healthy.

There are three types of astronauts in the U.S. Space Program: commanders, mission specialists, and payload specialists. They all have special jobs to do during a mission.

Astronauts train for two years in Texas. At training, astronauts learn many important things. They learn how the space shuttle works. They learn how to survive in space. They learn how it feels to be in a place where there is no **gravity**. Have you seen pictures of astronauts **flapping** their arms and floating in the air? Being weightless looks fun, but it's actually hard work! It can make you feel very dizzy and sick to your stomach. It's



also very hard on your bones and your legs. In training, astronauts learn how to make this easier on their bodies.

After getting chosen for a flight, you have to go through even more training! This flight training takes about 10 months. You'll learn about where you're going. You'll find out what you're doing there. You'll spend a lot of time in the shuttle with the other people who are going on the flight.

After all of those years of hard work, you'll finally be in the space **tower** ready to go. Three... two...one...BLASTOFF!

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1. What do astronauts need to study in college?

2. What are the three types of astronauts in the U.S. Space Program?

3. Where do astronauts go for training?

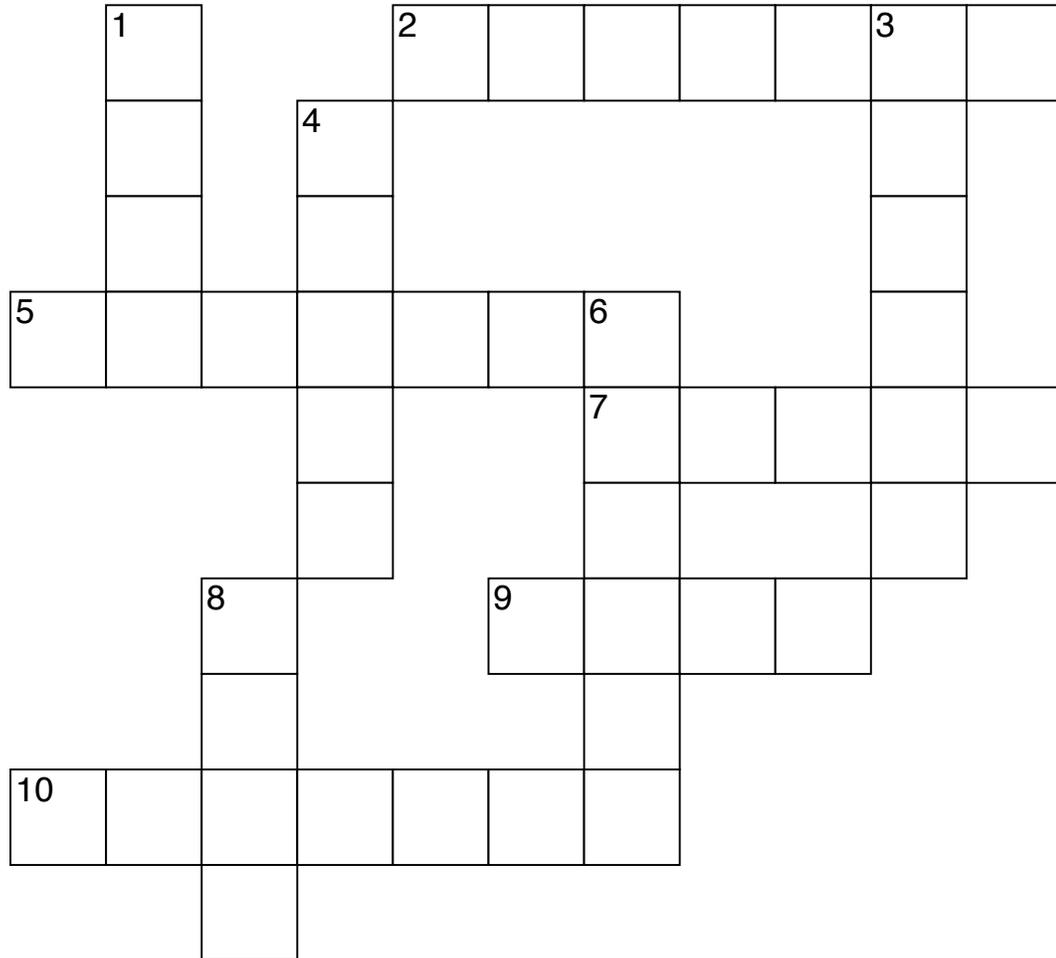
4. What are some things astronauts learn in training?

5. How might you feel if you were weightless?

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Bonus: Crossword Puzzle

Solve this crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

- 2** To think over
- 5** In addition to
- 7** A lot of basketball players
_____ over
normal-size people.
- 9** Not completely dry
- 10** All planets and stars have this.

DOWN

- 1** Not dark
- 3** Standing in a way that makes it
hard for someone to get away
- 4** The ability to do something
very well
- 6** Not wobbly
- 8** To move back and forth
through the air