

# Unit 1 – Biggie

act / certain / clever / explore / habit / locate / opposite / starve / talent / treasure

## **1A Introduction**

This is the story of a fat cat with a mind of his own. He loves to run around the neighborhood, and even learned how to ride on a skateboard. But one day Biggie didn't come home...

## **1B Song Lyrics**

*This is dedicated to my best friend.*

*My Biggie, where did you go? Where did you go?  
My Biggie, where did you go? Where did you go?  
My Biggie, where did you go? Where did you go?  
All I know is I miss my Biggie.*

Well, I've got a cat, and I call him Biggie,  
Why's that? Because he's fatter than Miss Piggy.  
I mean I **treasure** my cat, I love him to death,  
And I have a lot of friends, but Biggie was best.  
My cat has a special ability, I mean **talent**,  
For getting on a skateboard and riding around.  
When people, they see his trick, they rub their eyes,  
And they want to see it again like a hundred times.  
This cat is kind of **clever**, I mean he's smart,  
He rules the whole neighborhood, all of the yards.  
But Biggie, he has a **habit** for getting himself lost.  
"What do you mean by habit?" He does it a lot.  
But one time Biggie got lost and didn't come back,  
Even when I called his name, and I put out some snacks.  
I got real scared; maybe he got hit by a car,  
Or what if Biggie was alone, ran out of food and **starved**?  
Oh my gosh...

*My Biggie, where did you go? Where did you go?  
My Biggie, where did you go? Where did you go?*



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*My Biggie, where did you go? Where did you go?  
All I know is I miss my Biggie.*

x2

I had to do something, I had to **act**,  
So I went to a book and found a neighborhood map.  
Had to **locate** my cat, find out where he was at,  
'Cause if I lost my Biggie, man, I would have been sad.  
So I searched the trees, and all of the streets,  
Up and down, all I found was some leaves and concrete.  
But there was one dark alley across the way,  
Where the dogs would fight like each and every day. So  
I started to **explore** it and look around,  
All I found was some trash all over the ground.  
But then I heard "meow," and I knew it was him,  
I was **certain** it was Biggie: "I'm coming, my friend!"  
I thought he was in trouble; it's the **opposite**,  
There was a vat of ice cream; he was on top of it.  
He was so big now, he looked like a monster pet,  
Ha ha ha. Welcome home.

*My Biggie, where did you go? Where did you go?  
My Biggie, where did you go? Where did you go?  
My Biggie, where did you go? Where did you go?  
All I know is I miss my Biggie.*

x2

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## 1C Words Defined

act / certain / clever / explore / habit / locate / opposite / starve / talent / treasure

### act

**(verb)** 1. To do something. When Paul saw his bike getting stolen, he **acted** at once and called the police. 2. To play a part in a movie, play or TV show. Johnny Depp has **acted** in a lot of movies.

**(noun)** 1. Something that is done. Jumping in the river to save that little boy was an **act** of real bravery. 2. A part of a play or show. Kavita had a big role in the play, but she didn't come onstage until the second **act**.

### certain

**(adj)** 1. Being positive or confident about something. I'm **certain** that I fed the dog this morning. 2. A specific or different thing. My dad only eats a **certain** kind of cheese that he gets at a special store.

### clever

**(adj)** Being smart in an interesting way; creative. That song about "apples and ooples" is pretty **clever**.

### explore

**(verb)** To go somewhere and look around. Though she was now a grandmother, Danielle still loved to **explore** caves.



**explore**

### habit

**(noun)** Something that someone does a lot. She has a **habit** of scratching her nose when she's nervous.

### locate

**(verb)** To find out where something is. I went to the carnival, but it was so big I couldn't **locate** my favorite ride. Related word: **location**. **(noun)** The place where something is. Fumi's store has a great **location** right near the Empire State Building.

### opposite

**(adj)** Very different from something else. Paul and Jerry didn't get too far in their boat, because they were paddling in **opposite** directions.

**(noun)** Something that is very different from something else. I thought I did well on the test, but the **opposite** was true: I failed.



**opposite**

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**starve**

**(verb)**. To suffer or die from not having enough food to eat. *If a polar bear doesn't eat enough food before the winter comes, it may **starve**.*

**talent**

**(noun)**. A natural skill for doing something well. *LeBron James sure has a **talent** for playing basketball.*

**treasure**

**(noun)**. Something very valuable and worth a lot. *The pirates always guarded their **treasure** very carefully.*

**(verb)**. To care a lot about something. *I love my friend Ollie, and I **treasure** the time that we spend together.*

**treasure**

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## **1D Synonyms**

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

act / certain / clever / explore / habit / locate / opposite / starve / talent / treasure

1. smart	certain	clever	opposite
2. look around	explore	act	treasure
3. place	act	talent	location
4. absolutely sure	certain	opposite	clever
5. perform	explore	starve	act

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## **1E Fill in the Blank**

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

act / certain / clever / explore / habit / locate / opposite / starve / talent / treasure

1. I have a bad \_\_\_\_\_ of tapping my foot when I'm nervous.

**location**

**treasure**

**habit**

2. By lunch I am so hungry I feel like I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_ if I don't eat something.

**treasure**

**act**

**starve**

3. Katrice used her \_\_\_\_\_ for singing to try out for the school choir.

**talent**

**location**

**treasure**

4. When I saw that huge dog barking at us, I ran in the \_\_\_\_\_ direction.

**certain**

**opposite**

**clever**

5. I will always \_\_\_\_\_ the jewelry my grandmother gave to me.

**locate**

**explore**

**treasure**

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**1F Connections**

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

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1. She always bites her nails when she's bored.

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2. My sister is tall and slow, but I am short and fast.

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3. There were no berries for the deer to eat.

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4. Tanya was sure she studied enough for the test.

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5. He sailed across the ocean in search of new land.

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## **1G Applying Meanings**

Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.

act / certain / clever / explore / habit / locate / opposite / starve / talent / treasure

1. If someone **acts** in a play, what will they do?

- (A) sit in the audience
- (B) perform a part
- (C) make costumes
- (D) read

2. Which **talent** do tightrope walkers need?

- (A) a rope
- (B) a circus
- (C) good balance
- (D) a bad mood

3. Which of the following would you most likely **treasure**?

- (A) your favorite book
- (B) a mean pirate
- (C) a wolf
- (D) opposites

4. How could you **locate** your lost shoes?

- (A) wear them to school
- (B) buy them
- (C) tie them
- (D) look around your house

5. Which shows that a child is **clever**?

- (A) She cries a lot.
- (B) She solves tricky problems.
- (C) She tells secrets.
- (D) She is nice to her friends.

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## 1H Reading

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

# Storm Chasers

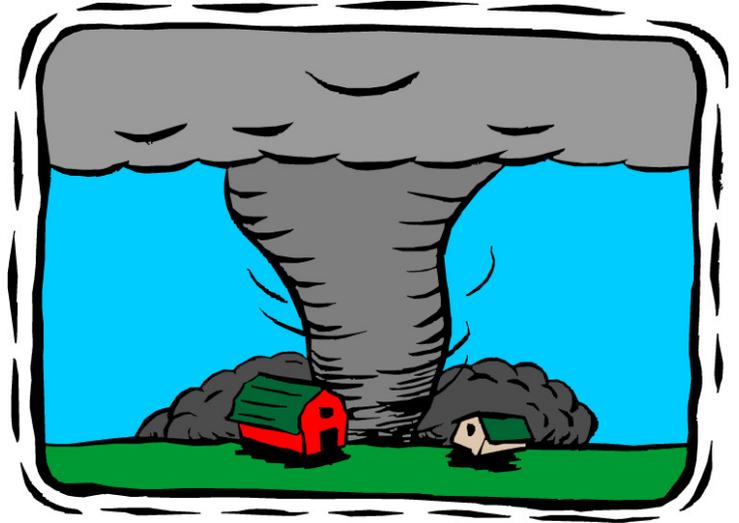
When most people hear that a huge storm is coming, they quickly find someplace safe. Many people go to underground shelters and cellars to stay away from powerful tornadoes. And then there are the people who do the exact **opposite**. These people are called *storm chasers*, and instead of running away from a storm, they run toward it.

Storm chasers are people who look at radar and other weather maps in hopes of finding the next big storm. They usually work in teams with one person driving and others studying maps and weather patterns. Once they see a storm starting to form, they quickly go to that **location** and look for a thunderstorm or tornado. Storm chasers have been known to drive thousands of miles across the country to find extreme weather. They usually carry cameras with them so that they can take pictures and record videos of the storms.

Storm chasers have a special **talent** for waiting and waiting. Many times, they will watch and wait for days without seeing a thing. Other times, they will rush to see a storm but by the time they arrive, the weather has changed. But when the big storm hits, they are always ready to run after it. Even if they miss seeing the tornado hit, storm chasers often love to **explore** the area the

tornado has destroyed. This gives them a lot of information about the speed and power of that storm.

Being a storm chaser may look fun and exciting. But the **act** of driving into a big storm can be very dangerous. The driver must not get distracted by all the excitement. Storm chasers are very careful to stay close to a tornado without getting swept away by it.



1. Where do some people go to stay safe during storms?

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2. What are some things that help storm chasers find storms?

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3. What do storm chasers carry with them?

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4. Why do storm chasers like to see the area where a tornado has hit?

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5. What is one danger of chasing storms?

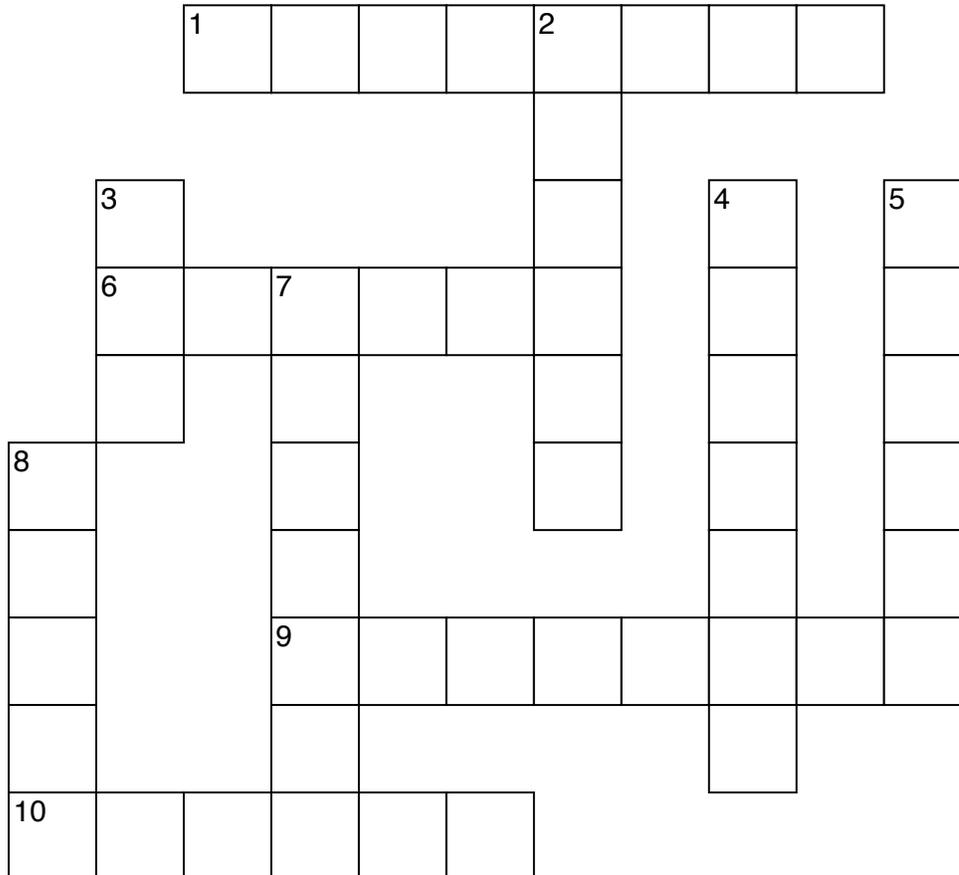
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## **Bonus: Crossword Puzzle**

Solve this crossword puzzle. Note: Some answers may be different forms of the vocab words above.

act / certain / clever / explore / habit / locate / opposite / starve / talent / treasure



### **ACROSS**

- 1 They buried the \_\_\_\_\_ in a chest so nobody would find it.
- 6 You have to be pretty \_\_\_\_\_ to solve a crossword puzzle.
- 9 I told Ashley to go north, but she went the \_\_\_\_\_ way and drove south.
- 10 Firefighters have a special \_\_\_\_\_ for staying calm.

### **DOWN**

- 2 Without food or water, the prisoners began to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 If you hear the fire alarm, \_\_\_\_\_ fast and get out of the building.
- 4 Absolutely sure.
- 5 To find something on a map.
- 7 Melanie loves to look for shells and \_\_\_\_\_ at the beach.
- 8 Picking your nose is a nasty \_\_\_\_\_.