



26-Vampire Rat

Two-Syllable Words

division between consonants

One day Dan said to Rat The Cat, “Hey, Rat, Big Cactus Ranch needs help. They need two cow punchers for the weekend roundup.”

“Cow puncher?” asked Rat. “I don't want to punch a cow. It might punch me back!”

“No, Rat,” said Dan. “*Cow puncher* is just an old-time way to say *cowboy*.”

“Cowboy?” said Rat. “Why didn't you say so? When do we leave?”

“Now,” said Dan. “Big Cactus Ranch is down by the border. I'll pack a picnic basket and we will go.”

The next morning Dan and Rat arrived at Big Cactus Ranch. Dexter, the top cowboy, met them to teach them how to be cow punchers.

“First, get rid of those sandals,” said Dexter as he pointed first at Dan's feet and then at Rat's feet. “There are cactus needles here that will send you hopping to the doctor. You both must put on cowboy boots.”

“Okay,” said Dan and Rat.

Then Dexter spoke to Rat.

“You seem a bit puny to be a cow punch. And a bit furry. Are you a hamster?”

“NO!” said Rat. “I am a cat. And I must

inform you that back in school I was the best cow puncher on campus. No cow would dare come near me, I'd punch them so hard!”

“Uh, yeah,” said Dexter. Then he said to Dan, “The roundup is at five. It will be at the corral. Put on your boots and bring your hamster.”

“*CAT!*” yelled Rat. “*CAT!*”

At five Dan and Rat went to the corral. Rat saw the number of cows and was scared. Then Dexter spoke to Dan.

“Now,” he said, “a few of our former cowboys ended up going to see a doctor or a dentist, so you must be safe. I have hats for you and your hamster.” Dexter gave Dan a cowboy hat and Rat a helmet.

“Now,” said Dexter, “I will not be here. Keep

the cows in order and do not let them trap you in a corner. Your job is to drive the cattle out to the pasture.” Then Dexter left.

As soon as Dexter left a dispute broke out among the cattle.

“Get in order!” Rat yelled. All the cows looked at him. They were upset. Very upset. Then a cow ran at Rat.

“Oh no!” yelled Dan. “Stampede!”

All the cows ran past Dan, but Rat was like a cow magnet. It seemed as if each cow stepped on Rat as it ran past.

Late that night, after Rat came back from the doctor, Dan and Rat were in bed.

“I can't sleep, Dan,” said Rat.

“Me too,” said Dan.

“Why can't you sleep” Rat asked Dan.

“I have a blister from my boot,” said Dan.
Rat got angry.

“You mean to tell me I got mashed by cows and you can't sleep with a little blister?” Rat asked.

“Is *that* why you can't sleep?” Dan asked.
“Did the cows mash you too bad, Rat?”

“No,” said Rat. “I have to go to the bathroom.”

“Well,” said Dan, “bad news. It's outside.”

Rat went outside in the dark to find the bathroom. Soon he came running back in.

“Dan! Dan!” Rat screamed. “A monster got me! It grabbed me and bit me on the neck!”
Rat pointed at two little holes on his neck. “I think it was a vampire! A BIG VAMPIRE! OH, Dan — do you know that the victim of a

vampire bite will BE a vampire by sunrise? Oh, Dan! Lock me up so I don't get you while you sleep!”

Just then Dexter came in the door.

“What's all the noise?” Dexter asked. “Is something wrong with your hamster?”

Dan told Dexter, “Rat said that a vampire bit him when he went out to the bathroom! He has two holes on his neck!” Now Rat was jumping on the bed and acting like a vampire.

“Let's go see,” said Dexter.

Dexter reached for Rat and Rat said, “Watch out! I may bite! I can feel it, I am a VAMPIRE!” Dexter grabbed Rat and Rat chewed on Dexter's arm as they went outside to the spot of the vampire attack.

“See,” said Dexter when they got there. “It was not a vampire. Your hamster ran into this

big cactus here.”

“CAT!” yelled Rat. "I am a CAT, not a HAMSTER!”

“You and your hamster can go back to bed now,” said Dexter.

“No we can't,” said Rat.

“Why not?” asked Dan.

“I still need to go to the bathroom!”

Vocabulary

winter	victim	number	vampire
corner	sandal	witness	thunder
magnet	helmet	pasture	stampede
dispute	former	order	blister
dentist	picnic	cactus	border
doctor	content	monster	wonder
napkin	hamster	public	basket
goblin	campus	under	

Possessives

Rat + ('s) = Rat's

Dan + ('s) = Dan's

Mike + ('s) = Mike's

Fred + ('s) = Fred's

Weird Words

can't	clothes	even	going
I'd	wrong	ever	after
puny	hundred	every	comics
school	wearing	fairy	dance
noise	looking	godfather	suit
point	shoes	godmother	contest

Dictation

Did you see the number of cows?

Rat got too close to the cactus.

I need to go to the doctor.

I lost my magnet.

Rat was a victim of the vampire.

My hamster hates winter.

There was a stampede in the pasture.

Is there a napkin in the picnic basket?

I think there is a goblin on this campus.

Dan had a blister under his sock.

Did you go see a doctor or a dentist?

Big Cactus Ranch is by the border.

It is funny to see a hamster in a helmet.

The stampede made a noise like thunder.

Did you witness the dispute?

The monster led to the stampede.

Rat is a goblin.

A hamster ate my sandal.