

BRAILLE READING PASSAGE: WORKSHOP 18

Shortforms Set 2

New Contraction: ⠆⠆⠆ (between, bt)

Mysterious Flyers

There is a creature in nature which most people either love or hate. If you are a lover of nature and all of the creatures in it, you must love this particular creature. If you are afraid of what may be out at night, then this mammal would not be your favorite. Neither group of people is wrong to have the feelings that they do, but people who hate this creature could be against caring for it since they do not know much about it or have been given incorrect information such that they fear it. Would you like to know what this mysterious creature is?

The bat is a sometimes misunderstood mammal which one should study more as it is such a fascinating creature. There are over 12,000 bat species worldwide, but there are threats that are working against bats in the US which must be addressed such as climate change, habitat loss, infectious disease, and wind energy production. One would not think that something like a wind turbine could cause a problem, but there is something about the migration patterns of some bats, like the hoary bat, which seems to increase their risk of collision with those turbines. It is equally amazing that a disease, such as white-nose syndrome, should impact a number of species as much as it does.

Neither disease nor man-made wind turbines must continue to devastate large numbers of these mighty mammals since they play such an important role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem. Either we work to protect these valuable species, or we will lose what should be a treasured traveler.

An important fact one must know is that bats are the only mammals capable of true flight. One could say that a bat's wing resembles the human hand with much longer fingers and a wing membrane stretched between. It is a must to know that bats have a highly evolved sense of hearing called echolocation. They emit sounds which bounce against objects in their path sending echoes

back to the bats with such speed one must be amazed. Using the echoes, they can determine the size of objects, how far away they are, how fast they're traveling, and their texture. One could say that one of the most important functions of many bat species is to eat insects, thus controlling the insect population. The diet of one species which turns many against bats features blood. The vampire bats of South America must rely on blood, but, much to the relief of anyone reading this fact, do not get that from humans.

Either we protect these wild winged creatures, or we risk harming much more of our habitat, which must be of importance to everyone. These mammals could be feared, but with education, we should be able to overcome that. It would be a shame to lose more of these flying fascinators.

THE BATS OF THE WORLD

The bats of the world are found in all parts of the world. They are found in the forests, the mountains, the deserts, and the cities. They are found in the caves, the tunnels, and the holes in the ground. They are found in the trees, the bushes, and the flowers. They are found in the air, the water, and the land. They are found in the night, the day, and the moon. They are found in the sun, the rain, and the snow. They are found in the wind, the fire, and the earth. They are found in the sky, the sea, and the land. They are found in the world, the world, and the world.

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