



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Words to Know

**Directions:** As you come across words in bold in "Our Beautiful Town Is Gone," ask yourself if you know them or if you can figure them out from context. Check their meanings here. Then complete the activity on the following page.

- 1. abandoned:** "Some roads were completely blocked by burning tree limbs, electrical wires, and cars **abandoned** by terrified drivers." (p. 8)  
*Meaning:* left behind or no longer used
  
- 2. dousing:** "Josh stood on his truck, battling back flames with a powerful hose, **dousing** new fires as they erupted." (p. 9)  
*Meaning:* pouring a lot of liquid over
  
- 3. evacuate:** "In 2008, about 10,000 people from the town had to **evacuate** when a massive fire closed in." (p. 7)  
*Meaning:* leave a dangerous place
  
- 4. ignited:** "Experts now think that sparks from a faulty electrical wire had **ignited** dry grass on a remote hillside." (p. 6)  
*Meaning:* set fire to; caused to burn
  
- 5. mobilized:** "Firefighters in Paradise **mobilized**." (p. 6)  
*Meaning:* came together to take action
  
- 6. plume:** "All seemed normal—except for the **plume** of smoke rising out of the forest in the distance." (p. 6)  
*Meaning:* a narrow cloud of something, like dust or smoke, that rises into the air
  
- 7. predictable:** "The weather in California and around the Earth has been getting hotter and less **predictable**." (pp. 6-7)  
*Meaning:* able to be predicted, or figured out in advance
  
- 8. refuge:** "As the fire burned across Paradise, hundreds of people took **refuge** in a supermarket parking lot, which Josh Fisher and other firefighters were protecting." (p. 9)  
*Meaning:* shelter from danger

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# Words to Know, p. 2

**9. resilient:** "We are **resilient**, and I'm certain we will rebuild a beautiful Paradise together." (p. 9)  
*Meaning:* able to recover; not easily destroyed

**10. smoldering:** "Like so many devastating California wildfires, the **smoldering** brush quickly exploded into a raging wall of flames." (p. 6)  
*Meaning:* burning and smoking slowly without flames

**11. wilderness:** "But many fell in love with the California **wilderness**, the feeling of wide-open possibility in the American West." (p. 6)  
*Meaning:* a wild and natural area in which few people live

**Directions:** Choose the word that is most similar in meaning to each word in bold.

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1. **dousing**

- A soaking       B drying

2. **evacuate**

- A leave       B stay

3. **resilient**

- A weak       B strong

4. **refuge**

- A shelter       B threat

**Directions:** For each statement below, fill in the circle to show whether you think it's true or false. Briefly explain your choice.

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5. If someone spends a lot of time in the **wilderness**, they probably appreciate nature.

- A true       B false

**Reason:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. When a movie is **predictable**, you don't know what will happen next.

- A true       B false

**Reason:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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# Words to Know, p. 3

**Directions:** Rewrite each sentence below using one of the words in the box.

abandoned	ignited	mobilized	plume	smoldering
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7. The rising cloud of smoke could be seen from miles away.

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8. The police officers took action when they learned of the bank robbery.

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9. The toddler was happy to find a stuffed bear that had been left behind.

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10. The building caught on fire when someone knocked over a candle.

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11. The campers made sure their fire was no longer burning or smoking before they went to sleep.

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