

## The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street (page 415)

### Words to Know SkillBuilder

#### Words to Know

antagonism  
contorted

defiant  
flustered

idiosyncrasy  
incriminate

intense  
legitimate

optimistic  
persistent

**A.** Decide which word from the word list belongs in each numbered blank. Then write the word on the blank line on the right.

When we left the folks' place, my brothers thought building houses would be a snap. They've always looked on the bright side, so their (1) attitude didn't surprise me, but their houses did. One was made out of straw and the other out of sticks! I knew they'd fall right down, and I was right. What I didn't know was that my brothers would want to move in with me. Sure enough, one night a pounding on my door woke me out of a sound sleep.

"What? Huh?" I called out, (2) by the commotion. Then I saw who it was and let them in. Big mistake. I realized we had a problem when I noticed that my brothers had a weird habit, you might call it an (3), of washing their socks in the cooking pot. I told them to stop, but they were (4). "Try and make us, Porky!" were their exact words.

Now, I didn't want a house filled with anger and (5), but I didn't want to be a pushover either. Besides, it was my little brick house, so I decided not to give in. I smiled pleasantly but was calmly (6) in my demands that they follow my rules. They did. Briefly. Then, one day, I found eleven pairs of athletic socks bubbling away in the pot over the fire. That's enough evidence to (7) anybody!

I was starting to throw a fit when there was a sudden, short but (8) banging on the door. "Let me in! Let me in!" called a deep voice, and my brothers turned pale.

"It's the bill collector! He's found us!" they said and begged me not to open the door. We ignored the rattling doorknob, but then the rattling stopped, and there was a clattering on the roof up by the chimney. Then—SPLASH—and our visitor was swimming in the pot with the socks. It wasn't a bill collector after all. It was our rich Uncle Henry and his face was (9) with rage. He had supported us for years, but that was the end of that.

To make money, I sold the story to one of those newspapers you see near the check-out at the grocery store. You know the kind—not a source of real, (10) news, but filled with stories about two-headed goats and things. Anyway, their version changed some of the facts, but it made my brothers and me famous!

\_\_\_\_\_ (1)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2)

\_\_\_\_\_ (3)

\_\_\_\_\_ (4)

\_\_\_\_\_ (5)

\_\_\_\_\_ (6)

\_\_\_\_\_ (7)

\_\_\_\_\_ (8)

\_\_\_\_\_ (9)

\_\_\_\_\_ (10)

**B.** Imagine that you are the director for "The Monsters Are Due on Maple Street." What will you be looking for in choosing actors? Use at least **four** of the Words to Know.