

READ THE PASSAGE Who or what is the passage about, and where does it take place?

Go Away!

Bo sat quietly out of sight. The scientist was watching a porcupine climb down a pine tree. About 30,000 quills covered the porcupine's back and tail. The quills, which are stiff hairs, lay flat against the animal's body.

Then Bo heard a noise. So did the porcupine. A hungry coyote wandered out of the woods. The porcupine's quills stood up. The scared porcupine gave a warning by stamping its feet. The coyote did not move. The porcupine shook its tail so the quills rattled. Still the coyote did not move.

Bo wondered how the porcupine would defend itself. He knew the porcupine could not shoot its quills. That happened only in cartoons. Then the porcupine turned its back end to the coyote. It slapped the coyote with its tail. At the same time, the porcupine moved some muscles. That released many quills. Some quills stuck right in the animal's hide. The coyote left with a whimper. Losing the quills was no problem for the porcupine. They would grow back.

SKILL PRACTICE Read the item. Write your response.

1. Are the animal characters in the text friends? How do you know?

2. Describe where the action is taking place.

3. Are coyotes easy to frighten? How can you tell?

STRATEGY PRACTICE Look back at the passage. Underline the words or phrases that helped you visualize what you read.