Vocabulary:
“Day of Disaster”

1. **chaos (KAY-ahs)** *noun*; Chaos is a state of total disorder and confusion. For example, there would be chaos if a rat started running around a restaurant, freaking everyone out.

2. **dissipate (DIS-uh-payt)** *verb*; If something dissipates, it slowly breaks up, scatters, or disappears. After it rains, the clouds might dissipate, allowing the sun to come out again. A crowd might hang out for a while after a concert is over before it dissipates and everyone goes home.

3. **hoist (hoyst)** *verb*; To hoist something is to lift or raise it, especially by using ropes or machinery. A group of students might hoist the flags up the pole in front of your school each morning. A crane might hoist steel beams into place at a construction site. You might hoist yourself out of a swimming pool.

4. **saga (SAH-guh)** *noun*; In the 12th and 13th centuries, a saga was a long story about the adventures and achievements of one of the first families that lived in Iceland. Today, *saga* can refer to any long and complicated story—whether true or fictional. The Harry Potter and Star Wars series are examples of modern sagas.

5. **stable (STAY-buhl)** *noun*; As it is used in the article, *stable* refers to a building where horses or other animals are sheltered and cared for on a farm.

6. **ravenous (RA-vuh-nuhs)** *adjective*; If you are ravenous, you are extremely hungry, as in, “We were ravenous after riding our bikes all day. We wolfed down our dinners!”

7. **toxin (TOK-sin)** *noun*; A toxin is a poison produced by a living thing—an animal or a plant. Snake venom, for example, is a toxin. So is the venom found in the tentacles of a jellyfish.

8. **ventilation (ven-tuh-LEY-shuhn)** *noun*; The verb *ventilate* (VEHN-tuh-layt) means “to cause fresh air to enter and move through a room, building, or other space.” You might ventilate your bedroom by opening the window and turning on a fan. Ventilation is the act of ventilating.
Directions: In the space below or on the back of this page, list any other words from the article whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or peers. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence using the word.
Vocabulary Practice

“Day of Disaster”

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

1. ravenous
   - A healthy
   - B starving

2. chaos
   - A calm
   - B confusion

3. toxin
   - A poison
   - B medicine

4. hoist
   - A lift
   - B drop

Directions: Fill in the circle next to the best answer choice.

5. Which is an example of chaos?
   - A A man sits in a chair, drinking tea and reading a book while soft classical music plays in the background.
   - B Dozens of goats escape from their enclosure and stampede through a suburban neighborhood, eating and stomping on everything in sight.

6. Which would you be more likely to find in a stable?
   - A donkeys
   - B dolphins

7. Which place would likely require ventilation?
   - A the hot kitchen of a restaurant
   - B your backyard

Directions: In each pair of boldfaced words, underline the word that best completes the sentence.

8. The gym feels hot and stuffy because of its poor ventilation/saga.

9. Aubrey told me the saga/stable of her family’s camping trip: It rained everyday, their tent sprung a leak, and they all got the flu.

10. I had to use all my strength to hoist/dissipate the heavy box of books up onto my shoulder.

11. My anger ventilated/dissipated after I stepped back from the situation and took some time to reflect.