

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Vocabulary:

"Climbing Skull Mountain"

- 1. dilapidated (dih-LAP-ih-dey-tid)** *adjective*; Something that is dilapidated is in very bad condition because of age, wear, or neglect. A basketball court that has rusty old hoops with no nets and weeds growing everywhere is dilapidated.
- 2. mesmerize (MEZ-muh-rahyz)** *verb*; *Mesmerize* means "to fascinate or completely hold someone's attention or interest." A dazzling fireworks show might mesmerize you. Watching paint dry would not. When you are mesmerized, you are so interested or amazed that you don't notice or see anything else.
- 3. strewn (stroon)** *adjective*; The verb *strew* (stroo) means "to spread or scatter something all over an area." A storm might strew broken twigs and leaves all over your yard.

Strewn means "untidily scattered" as in, "Confetti was strewn about the kitchen table at Kate's birthday party."
- 4. traipse (trayps)** *verb*; To traipse is to travel by foot in a slow and sort of aimless way. You may have a purpose for walking—say, shopping around town for a new backpack or exploring a museum—but you're walking without a specific path or plan in mind; you're wandering. You might traipse around a mall all afternoon with your friends. You wouldn't, however, traipse to the bus stop if you were running late. You'd probably run.
- 5. transfix (trans-FIKS)** *verb*; If you are transfixed by something, you have become motionless with horror, wonder, or surprise. Your little brother might be transfixed by animated movies, staring at the screen, frozen, as if under a spell. A deer might stand transfixed in the headlights of a car.

Does this definition sound a little familiar? *Transfix* and *mesmerize* are very similar in meaning. Someone who is transfixed is mesmerized, in that they're gripped by something. But someone who is mesmerized is not necessarily transfixed or unable to move.