Wringer Vocabulary

Chapters 1-13
dread

• fear of something that is going to happen

“Palmer dreaded the day he turned ten.”
Cackle

• to laugh with a high pitch sound, like a witches laugh.

"The witch cackled loudly as she put the Hansel and Gretel in the cage."
hoodlum

• a young rowdy person who gets into trouble.

“Mrs. LaRue did not want Palmer playing with the hoodlums in the neighborhood.”
meek

• Patient or mild in manner.

“Andrew is the meekest student in the class and he would never cut in line or hurt anyone’s feelings.”
marvel

• to be filled with wonder or amazement.

“Tony marveled at the site of a pigeon sitting on his bike seat.”
taunt

• to make fun of and/or to call out insults.

“The Bean’s Boys taunted Dorothy.”
befuddle

• to be completely confused, or cause someone else to be completely confused.

“The complicated instructions befuddled him and Joe could not put the bicycle together”
torment

- a person who causes another to suffer pain, worry or aggravation.

The tormentors made Dorothy’s life at school miserable because they called her names, knocked her books out of her hand, and pushed her into the lockers.
misery

• a feeling of great unhappiness or distress.

“Palmer’s fear of Pigeon day caused him much misery.”
smug

- overly pleased with oneself, over confidently.

Beans looked smugly at the other children before he gave The Treatment.
wringer

- a boy who retrieved pigeons from the field and was told to wring the pigeon’s neck.
squeamish

- to become sick or nauseated.

The sight of blood makes a lot of people squeamish.
cringe

- to shrink back because of fear or pain.

“Dorothy cringed when she saw the snake.”
disdainful

- Showing a lack of respect with attitude, looks, or both

“Beans gives adults a disdainful attitude.”
crimson

• a deep red.

“A crimson sun fell below the rooftops and the town went to sleep.”
restraint

• holding back

“Palmer fired snowballs at Dorothy without restraint.”
spew

• to throw out or up, eject, or vomit.

“The woman **spewed** out the water.”
gesture

• a movement of the body to express a thought or feeling.

“Palmer made a gesture of patience with his hands.”
casual

- Relaxed, not serious, acting like something is not that important.

“He tried to say it **casually**, in his best no-big-deal voice.”
coax

• persuaded, talked into doing something.

“Palmer put the food on the roof and the pigeon did not have to be **coaxed** to go outside.”