**Fire Ants Could Inspire the Next Rescue Robots**

Read the article and respond to the questions below.

1. What is the main idea of the article?

2. Who is quoted directly in the article? Why do you think these people were chosen?

3. Is this fiction or non-fiction writing? Explain why you think so.

This is probably the first study to really detail-out the features of moving in confined environments," Gravish says. "It's so different from traditional biomechanics studies of running and climbing, where you're watching animals move around in a featureless environment."

4."What does the speaker above believe traditional studies of biomechanics are like?

­­­­­­­­­­­­­­Future rescue robots will almost certainly utilize legs, although robotic legs raise significant biomechanical and computing challenges in robotics today. Added appendages add more complexity.

5. What does “utilize” mean in the above context?

 "We haven't really used them in search and rescue yet. But using the environment makes it more practical and much more likely . . . I think that with a concerted effort you could see prototypes as early as five years from now."

6. What does “concerted effort” mean in the above context?

7. In your opinion, do robots make good rescue workers? Give reasons for your response.

“The Iron-Barred Door”

**Pre-reading**

Defining these words will aid with comprehension of the story. Complete the following on loose-leaf f**or each of the following words:
a) define the word
b) use the word correctly in a sentence
c) draw a picture or icon to represent the word means**

1. rubble
2. charred
3. cloisters
4. mantel
5. parquet
6. vista

Literal Questions:

1. Describe the setting of the story. Include physical and chronological setting descriptions.

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2. There are two characters in the story. Describe them.

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3. Whose point of view is the story told from? Give evidence for this. How do you know?

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4. Is this 1st, 2nd, or 3rd person narration? Explain why.

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**Inferential:**

5. The conflict in this story is not entirely external. Rebecca is safe within her house, but she does struggle against something. Describe the conflict that Rebecca wrestles with and eventually confronts.

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6. The barred door in the title is symbolic in this story. What does the barred door represent for Rebecca?

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| **Critical**  |
| 1. What do you think had happened to the city?

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Create a venn diagram that compares the non-fiction science article “**Fire Ants Could Inspire the Next Rescue Robots”** and the story “The Iron-Barred Door”.

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| **Rubric for Venn Diagram** | **Content**  | **Format**  |
| **5Standard of Excellence** | \* identifies many attributesthat two concepts or ideasshare\* identifies and records many ways that concepts or ideas are different\* uses precise, detailed vocabulary to describe attributes and includes descriptive detail to compare and contrast | \* clearly and creatively labels all parts of the diagram\* descriptive and attention-getting title\* sub-headings are used so that like information is compared and contrasted in corresponding sections of the chart: information or ideas contain interesting detail  |
| **4Exceeds Acceptable Standard** | \* identifies several attributesthat two concepts or ideasshare\* identifies and records several ways that concepts or ideas are different\* uses specific vocabulary to describe attributes | \* clearly labels all parts of the diagram\* descriptive title\* sub-headings are used so that like information is compared and contrasted in corresponding sections of the chart; information or ideas contain interesting detail |
| **3Meets Acceptable Standard** | \* identifies some attributes that two concepts or ideas share\* identifies and records  some ways that concepts or ideas are different\* uses appropriate vocabularyto describe attributes | \* clearly labels the main parts of the diagram\* appropriate title\* information is organized so that like information is compared in corresponding sections of the chart; information or ideas contain essential detail |
| **1-2 Needs Improvement toMeet Acceptable Standard** | \* identifies few commonalities and differences\* common attributesidentified\* uses vocabulary that may contain vague generalities; lack detail | \* labels some parts of the diagram\* title that is vague or inappropriate\* information is organized randomly so like attributes arenot in corresponding sectionsof the chart; information or ideaslack essential detail |