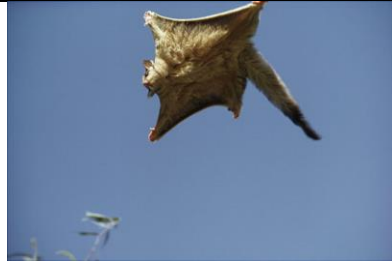


1	<p><b>OCTOPUS: Shape-shifting, invisibility</b></p> <p>This deep sea shape-shifter is equipped with the best defenses Mother Nature has to offer. The eight-<b>tentacled</b> wonder hides from <b>predators</b> using its amazing powers of <b>camouflage</b> making it all but <i>invisible</i>.</p> <p>If discovered, the <b>wily</b> creature <b>spews</b> a cloud of ink that both creates a diversion so it can flee, AND dulls its attacker's senses making it harder to track. As a last resort, the fast-swimming octopus can <b>morph</b> its body to squeeze through narrow cracks and <b>crevices</b>, or give up a <b>limb</b> if caught and <b>grow a new one</b> later. Bottom line – don't mess with it.</p>
2	<p><b>GECKO: Anti-gravity glue grip feet</b></p> <p>The gecko – nature's Spiderman – has many special powers, including its own chirping language and among its defensive weapons is the ability to shed its tail should a <b>predator</b> latch on. The tiny lizard also has a built in <b>feces catapult</b> to <b>repel</b> attackers. But the gecko's most famous super power is anti-gravity suction toes that allow it easily to climb up <b>vertical</b> surfaces and even across ceilings. But it's not a sticky web that gives the gecko its power - it is <b>microscopic</b> hair-like strands on each toe that trigger a pull allowing the gecko to <b>adhere</b> to (almost) any surface. The lizard does, however, have a Kryptonite - it can't stick to Teflon!</p>
3	<p><b>PUFFERFISH: Inflatability, deadly poison</b></p> <p>Don't be fooled by its cute face. The pufferfish, also called the blowfish, may not be blessed with speed or <b>agility</b>, but the clumsy fish has the <b>miraculous</b> skill of <b>increasing</b> its size by several times to <b>intimidate predators</b>. The fish has a stretchy, elastic stomach, and "<b>inflates</b>" by gulping water and air to <b>morph</b> into a ball. Pufferfish, is also highly poisonous. The fish contains a poison fatal to humans. In fact, one fish holds enough poison to kill 30 adult humans.</p>
4	<p><b>CHAMELEON: Invisibility</b></p> <p>Chameleons are in the running for best superhero costume of the animal kingdom – and they don't even need to rush into a phone booth before making a quick change to <b>hues</b> of brown, black, gold, green and even pink or <b>turquoise</b>. The <b>unique</b> ability to blend in with their natural surroundings, thanks to special skin cells, makes these lizards incredibly difficult for predators to spot. Chameleons are also master climbers and have <b>stereoscopic</b> vision, allowing them to zero in on their prey with warp speed.</p>
5	<p><b>CHEETAH: Speed on land</b></p> <p>This cool cat is the fastest land <b>mammal</b> on earth, with the ability to go from 0 to 60 mph in just 3 seconds. Its speed, <b>coupled</b> with its razor-sharp eyesight, let cheetah <b>terrorize</b> the grasslands in which it lives hunting for prey -- and earn it the status of super beast</p>
6	<p><b>PEREGRINE FALCON: Speed in air</b></p> <p>Faster than a speeding bullet - you betcha! Superman's got nothing on this rad raptor. <b>Equipped</b> with a razor sharp beak and <b>talons</b>, peregrine falcons are the fastest-flying birds on earth. They mate for life, meaning the birds pair off in <b>dynamic duos</b> that bring death from above to their prey – bats, songbirds and ducks – at speeds of up to 200 mph</p>
7	<p><b>SEA DRAGON: Camouflage</b></p> <p>Is it flora or fauna? To hungry <b>predators</b>, it's almost impossible to pick out the well-<b>disguised</b> sea dragon from the plants in which it lives. The sea dragon has some of nature's most elaborate <b>camouflage</b> costumes. The graceful creature floats through the leafy seaweed on the ocean floor and looks just like the gently waving <b>kelp</b>. The willowy sea dragons live in waters off south and east Australia – and may or may not be pictured above. Like we said, flora or fauna? It's tough to tell</p>
8	<p><b>TARSIER: Night vision</b></p> <p>These huge, <b>freakish</b> eyes see all. The tarsier's eyeballs are each as big as its brain and allow the tiny <b>nocturnal primate</b> to hunt by night. The <b>minuscule</b> creature also has <b>acute</b> hearing, thanks to its oversized ears – and is able to <b>swivel</b> its head 180 degrees in either direction to seek out its prey. On other words, you can run, but you can't hide</p>

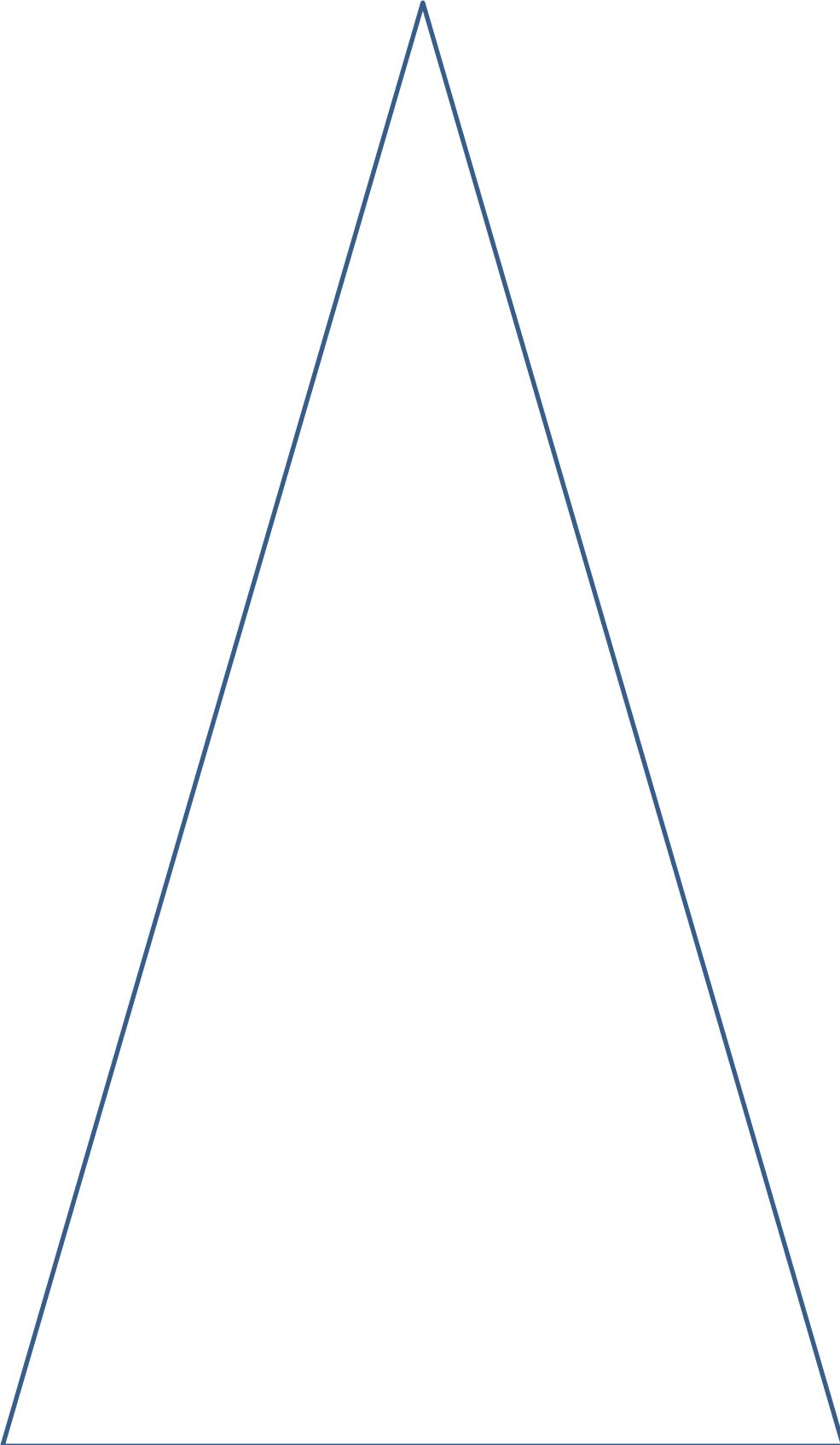
9	<p><b>PLATYPUS: Electroreception!</b>  This awkward duck-mammal may seem an unlikely animal super hero, but don't be fooled! The <b>web-footed</b> creature has an amazing sixth sense: electroreception. This power allows the platypus – which has poor <b>vision</b> – to detect prey by sensing electric fields <b>generated</b> by muscle movement. Even in a dark room wearing a blindfold and ear plugs, the platypus will hunt you down. They're also naturally packing some powerful heat: sharp <b>venomous talons</b> on their heels allow the platypus to deliver a <b>toxic</b> kick to <b>predators</b> in hot <b>pursuit</b>, so moral – keep your distance.</p>
10	<p><b>DOLPHINS: Ultrasonic hearing</b>  Dolphins look like they're smiling. But it's their way of <b>communicating</b> among their own <b>pods</b> that makes them special. Dolphins have super-developed hearing and can detect sounds at least ten times above what most humans hear – and, they hear with their teeth! Dolphin teeth function like well-tuned <b>antenna</b> and serve the dolphin like an <b>internal</b> GPS system</p>
11	<p><b>RHINOCEROS BEETLE: Amazing strength</b>  It's the tiny tank of the insect world. The Rhinoceros Beetle is considered the world's strongest creature and can carry up to 850 times its own body weight. A human would have to lift about 65 tons to match the <b>minuscule</b> bug's might. The beetle's name is inspired by its fierce horn – and it's not just <b>ornamental</b>. Like gladiators in the ring, male beetles use them to <b>joust</b> – may the best beetle win</p>
12	<p><b>HUMMINGBIRD: Helicopter hover flight</b>  If you're planning on <b>vanquishing</b> a villain by air, it'd be <b>ideal</b> to have an army of hummingbirds by your side. Hummingbirds have wings that beat so fast – up to 90 times per second – that they can hover in mid-air. They're also the only birds in the animal kingdom that can fly backwards. How do they get so much energy for their feats? Their diet <b>consists</b> of super-sweet nectar, which they must <b>consume</b> about every 10 minutes, as well as insects and spiders for protein. Watch out, Peter Parker.</p>
13	<p><b>FLYING SQUIRREL: It flies!</b>  For these tree-dwelling <b>rodents</b>, the sky's really the limit. Flying squirrels don't really fly – they glide from tree to tree. These amazing rodents have been known to glide for over 200 feet before landing. The <b>tautness</b> of the webbed-parachute-like <b>membrane</b> keeps them in the air and their tail acts as a brake.</p>
14	<p><b>SEA CUCUMBER: Body liquefaction</b>  When the sea cucumber senses danger, it melts – <b>literally</b>. These oblong creatures are able to loosen or tighten their outer body armour at will – allowing them squeeze through tiny cracks and pour into narrow <b>crevices</b> to take shelter from <b>predators</b>.</p>
15	<p><b>ELECTRIC EEL: Zaps adversaries with electric shocks</b>  This slithery sparker is isn't actually an eel. It's a knife-fish. The electric eel uses its <b>current</b> to <b>incapacitate</b> its prey. These shocks aren't just tiny tingles either. An electric eel is capable of producing a 500 volt shock – enough to kill an adult human. They also use these shocks to protect themselves from <b>predators</b></p>
16	<p><b>BATS: Echolocation, hyper-healing</b>  Besides the fact that bats are they only mammal that truly flies – they have an <b>echolocation</b> power that allows them to <b>discern</b> the layout of a pitch black room and to <b>locate</b> hidden prey. The bat's wings are very thin – allowing for <b>precise</b> and sharp moves – they beat birds by a long shot for flight skills. The thin <b>membrane</b> of webbing on the wings heals quickly if torn. The bat <b>emits</b> a sound intended to create an echo .</p>





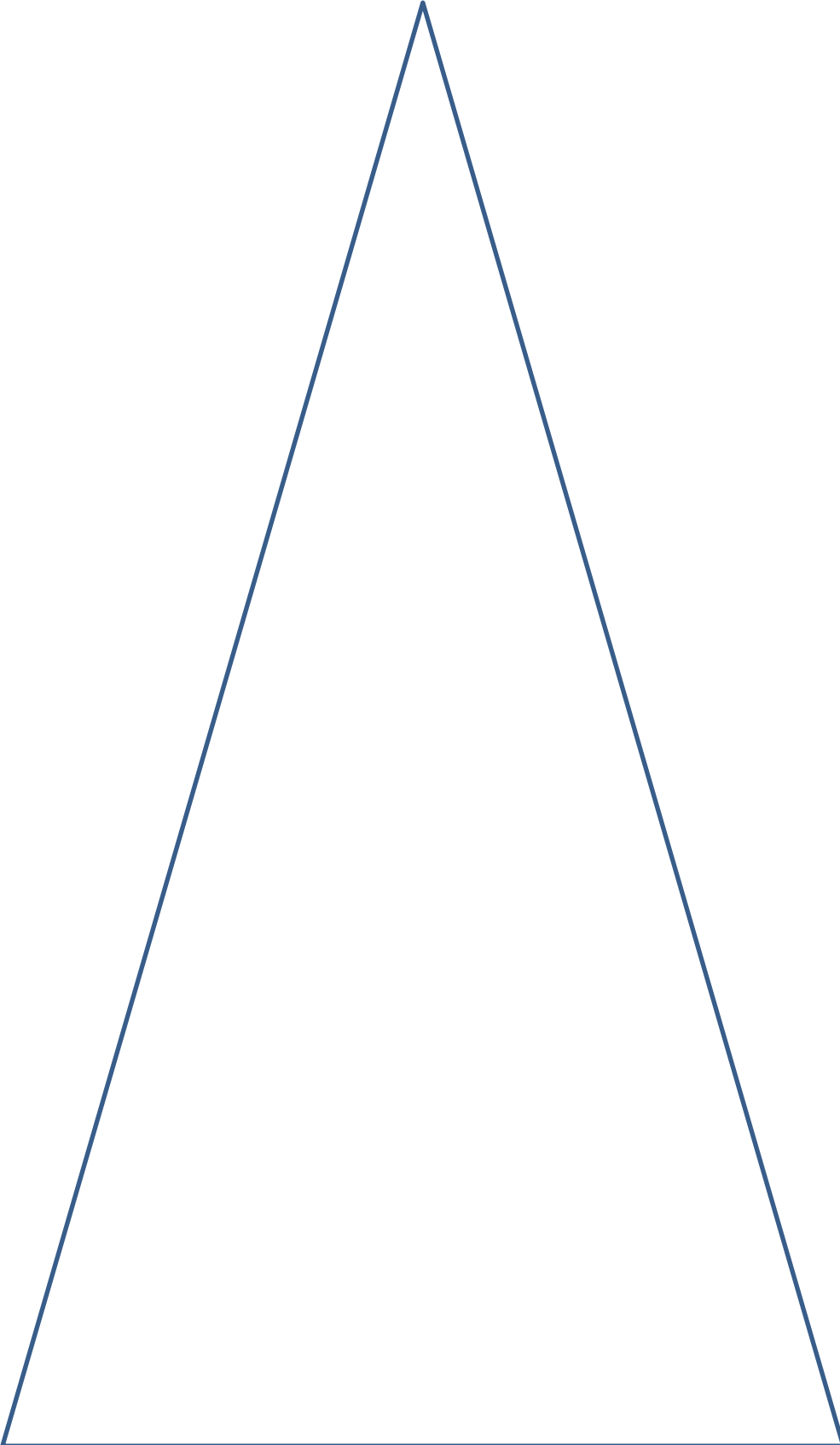
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<b>rich</b>	<b>brave</b>	<b>Honest</b>
<b>responsible</b>	<b>funny</b>	<b>has super-powers</b>
<b>happy</b>	<b>proud</b>	<b>loyal</b>
<b>tall</b>	<b>thoughtful</b>	<b>shy</b>
<b>secret identity</b>	<b>hard working</b>	<b>determined</b>





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## Notes:

We have been doing a cross-curricular project on superheroes in my year 5 class. In literacy, we have been looking at vocab and dictionary skills before we invented our own superhero. I used the pyramid sheet for paired work discussing the qualities with talk partners and then arranging those qualities on the pyramid in order of importance. The pictures and words I gave to the children to choose their top 3 super animals, and then locate the highlighted words in the dictionary to find a definition.