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The Crows Eat the Seals

This story uses one syllable words with one of the following vowel combinations: 1. words (in bold) containing vowel teams in which the first vowel says its name (syllable pattern 4). (This story focuses upon words using this vowel combination.) 2. words containing long vowels which end in silent e (syllable pattern 3). This story also uses one syllable words with short vowels containing one of the following combinations: 3. no blends 4. beginning blends 5. ending blends 6. beginning and ending blends 7. consonant teams 8. consonant teams and blends.

The name of my ball **team** is the **Crows**. We are the top **seed**. We **hear** the **cheers** and the **groans** when we **play**. We are not **paid**; we **play** to **show** that we can **grow** as a **team**, that we **own** pride, and that we will not quit. We run with a **sleek gait**. In our **throats** is the cry of the **deer deep** in the woods where no **jeep** can go, where the **green oak trees glow**, where the **geese seek** the **creek** so that they **may eat**. It is not a **breeze** to **play each week**. We are not **mean**, but we can **wail** and **weep** if in the end they **beat** us. We win when we are **fleet**, when we **sear** the **slow, snail-like team**

like **toast**. Yes, we can be **coarse**, but we do not **coast**. We **bleat** our chant; we **smear** the **meek peeps** of the **weak**. So we are on a **streak**, and we feel that we are top of the **heap**.

Now we must **play** the **Seals**. They are not **saints**; they can be **cheap**, and they can **cheat**. They **gloat**; they **flail**; they **roast** the **teams** they **play** like **meat**. They think they will bring **heat**, and the **boast** they make is **real**. I think they should be named the **Goats** or the **Sheep**. But I must **say** they are not **frail**, and they have **faith** in the **boasts** they make.

The **day** of the game came. The **coach** gave us a **speech**. He said that we must not **sleep**; we must **flail** them and **nail** them; we must take the **leash** off and go get them. He said we must **bait** them like **beasts** with our **sneer** and then take **aim** at the **goal**. Don't dig a hole; **peel** off the **pain**. **Greet** them with a **roar**, not a **creak**. **Beam** at them, but do not **preach**. **Soak** them like wet **snow** with your **blows**. **Feast** and **feed** off them; do not

act **quaint**. Take the **sheath** off the **spear**. Let us go out and win!!!

Out came the **Seals**. They made a **roar** like **foam** from the **sea** at the **beach**. They had red **cheeks** and a **clear aim**. They came with **brains** and a **dream** to **beat** the **Crows**. Well, we had no **beef**. We came to win, not to **coax** them, not to **bail** them out. If we are to win, then we must go **claim** the prize.

The game went fast. Out they came and **beat** us to the ball. Both **teams** had a **clear goal** to win, but that **claim** was like **steam** that **trails** in the **air**. The game had **peaks**. We **laid** waste to them; they would **drain** us like **air** from a tube. We did **peel** up and down the lanes. **Each team** did **sail** and **sweep** and **soar**. We both came close to **claim** the **goal**. It was a **fair** game, and we did not play in **vain**. Both **teams** can **sleep** well. Both **teams** gave all. But in the end the **Seals beat** the **Crows**. We did our best, but I will not **flail** or **beat** my chest. I will not **coax** a **pair** of **peas** out of a can to eat with **beans** and call that a **meal**.

I will take the **train**, **stow** my **mail**, and take my **seat** and not **stray** from the **rails**. I will **roam** and **loaf**, hit the road and **reel** off the names of **plain streets** and **roads**. We lost, and so I want to run. But I can't **float** off; my **feet** will **freeze**. I must not **tease**. I must stay in this **seat** and not **flee**. Yes, we lost the **lease** on our **streak**. The **Seals** beat us. We did not **fail**; at **least** we did our best. I will not **plead** with my **teeth**. Why must we **strain**? In the **street** the fans will **roam** and make us **sway** with our loss. But I must **meet** the next **road** that life will bring.

I **need** to take a **steep leap**. My **team** will **play** the **Seals** next **week**. We have no **fear**. We will give our best. Yes, they **beat** us, but now we will make a **raid** and **cloak** our **goals** till the last. We will **greet** them with **heat**, and this time we will **flail** them.

The game is off. The ball **goes** back, this **way**, that **way**. Now we **toe** the line. We **scream** with a **low moan**. We will not **loan** them a score. We **treat** them as

if **each** is a **leach** or an **eel**. We are like **steel**. We **teach** them that we are the **Crows**. We hit them with our **beaks**. We are like **quail** that **soar** when they are **shown** the **stream**. **Please**, we have a **need** for **speed**. We **tow** no line. We will **heal** from the last loss. We **peer** at the score and **see** that we will **weave** a win if we can but hang on and **wait** for the clock to ring. We have no **sprains** on the **team**, and we are in a **flow**. So at last the clock is up, and the **game** is a win for us!

We did not give up. We kept on so that we did **steal** the game. This time **each Crow** ran like a **doe**. We did not **creep** or **croak** or **beep**. We left our **coats** at home and came to **play**. We dug in our **heels** and said no to loss. This time we went to win, and we did. The **Crows** have **flown**!