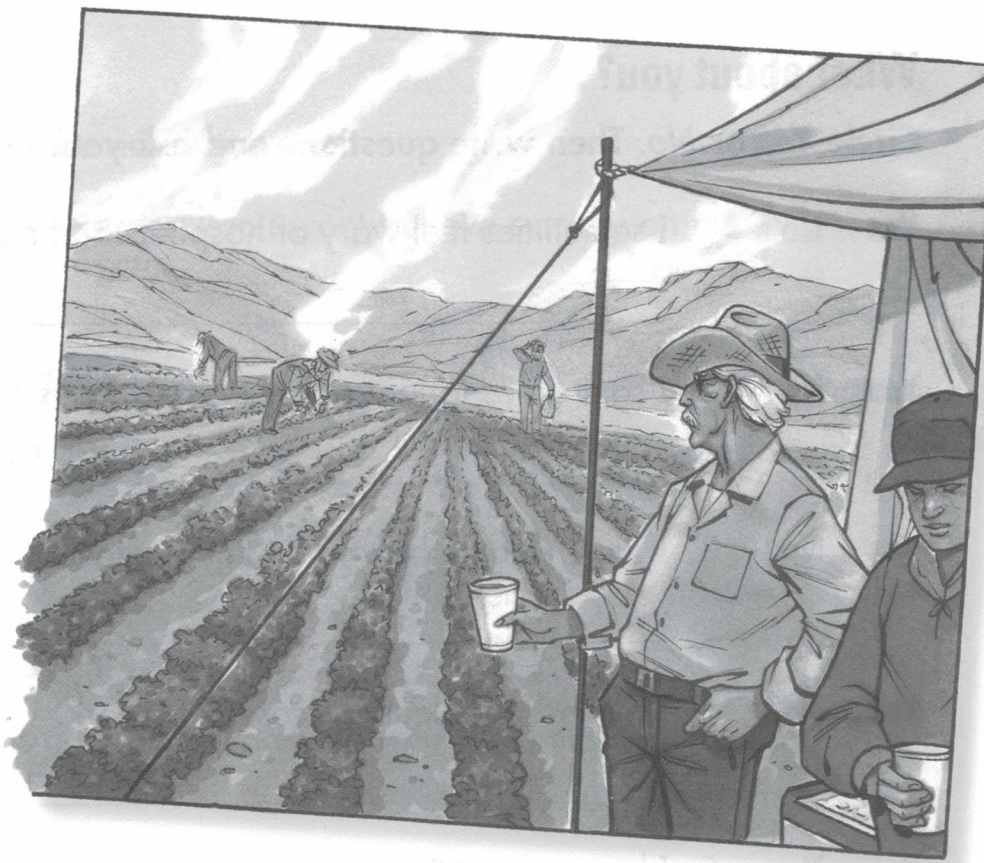


Chapter 5

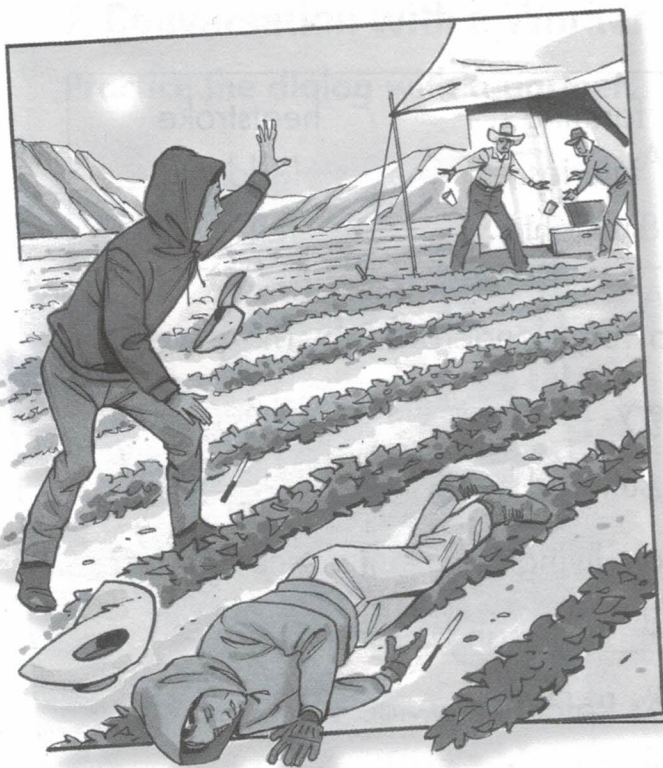
A Frightening Event



Rafael knew that farming was a very dangerous job. There were accidents with vehicles and machinery. Farmworkers sometimes fell from ladders and broke bones and suffered head injuries. Some migrants got acute infections from living in unsanitary conditions. People in the fields had to deal with spiders and insects. Every now and then, someone was bitten by a snake. As Rafael knew too well, exposure to chemicals could be deadly. Plus, farmworkers face another danger: the sun.

Although crops need sun to grow, too much can really hurt human beings. Farmworkers, in particular, can experience dehydration and heatstroke. This happens because they work very hard in the direct sunlight. At times, they don't—or can't—rest in the shade and rehydrate themselves.

While the weather in Salinas is typically very mild, there was an unusual heat wave in July. In fact, one day the temperature rose to 93 degrees. Still, Rafael and the other farmworkers needed to harvest the green peppers.



At sixty-five years old, Rafael wasn't able to tolerate the heat for very long. He had to leave the field and stand in the shade, watching and giving orders. However, he couldn't see all of the workers very well. Occasionally, he shouted, "Take a break! Drink water!" He hoped the workers were listening. But suddenly, he heard a loud scream coming from the far end of the field. "Help!" cried a frantic voice in Spanish. "My mother! She fell down!"

Answer the questions.

1. What did Rafael know about farming?
2. What were there accidents with?
3. What did farmworkers sometimes fall from and break?
4. What did some migrants get from living in unsanitary conditions?
5. What did people in the fields have to deal with?
6. What effect can exposure to chemicals have?
7. What can some farmworkers experience from too much sun?
8. Why does this happen?
9. How high did the temperature rise in July?
10. What did Rafael and the other farmworkers need to do?
11. What wasn't Rafael able to tolerate for very long?
12. What did he hear from the far end of the field?

Complete the story.

danger	exposure	farming	heatstroke
human beings	infections	injuries	ladders
shade	spiders	sunlight	vehicles

Rafael knew that _____¹ was a very dangerous job. There were accidents with _____² and machinery. Farmworkers sometimes fell from _____³ and broke bones and suffered head _____⁴. Some migrants got acute _____⁵ from living in unsanitary conditions. People in the fields had to deal with _____⁶ and insects. Every now and then, someone was bitten by a snake. As Rafael knew too well, _____⁷ to chemicals could be deadly. Plus, farmworkers face another _____⁸: the sun.

Although crops need sun to grow, too much can really hurt _____⁹. Farmworkers, in particular, can experience dehydration and _____¹⁰. This happens because they work very hard in the direct _____¹¹. At times, they don't—or can't—rest in the _____¹² and rehydrate themselves.

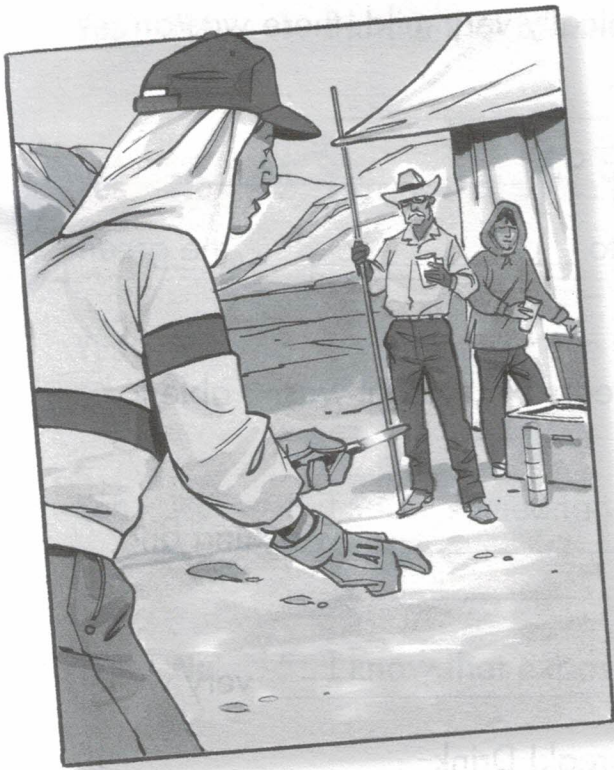
Meanings

Read each sentence. Look at the underlined word. Circle *a* or *b*.

1. Some migrants got acute infections from living in unsanitary conditions.
 - a. very dirty
 - b. hot and sunny
2. As Rafael knew too well, exposure to chemicals could be deadly.
 - a. dehydrating
 - b. the cause of death
3. "Help!" cried a frantic voice in Spanish. "My mother! She fell down!"
 - a. very worried
 - b. quiet

A Conversation with a Worker

Practice the dialog with a partner.



- A. You should take a break now.
- B. I'm okay. I can work a few more minutes.
- A. No. Please come in the shade—and drink some water.
- B. I'm almost finished with this row.
- A. It doesn't matter. The working conditions are very dangerous today.
- B. All right. It is really hot.
- A. Yes, it is. It's 93 degrees.
- B. Then I'll take a break.
- A. Good. Believe me, you don't want to experience dehydration or heatstroke.

Past-Tense Verbs

A. Write the present tense of the irregular past-tense verbs below.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. left _____ | 5. fell _____ |
| 2. bit _____ | 6. broke _____ |
| 3. grew _____ | 7. dealt _____ |
| 4. rose _____ | 8. got _____ |

B. Read the answers below. Then write the past-tense questions.

1. _____
Yes, some migrants got acute infections from living in unsanitary conditions.
2. _____
Yes, people in the fields dealt with spiders and insects.
3. _____
Yes, the temperature rose to 93 degrees.

Listening

Listen to the sentences. Write the missing words.

1. While the _____ in Salinas is typically very mild, there was an _____ heat wave in July.
2. In fact, one day the _____ rose to 93 _____.
3. Still, Rafael and the other farmworkers needed to _____ the green peppers.
4. At _____ – _____ years old, Rafael wasn't able to _____ the heat for very long.
5. He had to leave the field and stand in the _____, watching and giving orders.
6. However, he _____ see all of the _____ very well.
7. Occasionally, he _____, "Take a break! Drink _____!"
8. He _____ the workers were _____.
9. But suddenly, he heard a loud _____ coming from the far end of the field.
10. "Help!" cried a frantic _____ in _____.

Pronunciation

Check (✓) *d*, *t*, or *id* to show the pronunciation of the final sound in the past-tense verbs below.

	d	t	id		d	t	id
1. suffered	_____	_____	_____	5. faced	_____	_____	_____
2. rested	_____	_____	_____	6. rehydrated	_____	_____	_____
3. happened	_____	_____	_____	7. harvested	_____	_____	_____
4. shouted	_____	_____	_____	8. cried	_____	_____	_____

What about you?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Then write questions and ask your partner.

Yes **No** 1. I know that farming is a dangerous job.

Yes **No** 2. I know that some falls can cause broken bones and head injuries.

Yes **No** 3. I sometimes have to deal with spiders and insects.

Yes **No** 4. I know someone who was bitten by a snake.

Yes **No** 5. I know that exposure to chemicals can be deadly.

Yes **No** 6. I sometimes work very hard in direct sunlight.

Yes **No** 7. I live in a place where the weather is typically very mild.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. In addition to falls from ladders, what other things can cause broken bones and head injuries? How can these accidents be prevented?
2. How can living in unsanitary conditions lead to an acute infection? What are some symptoms of this kind of illness?
3. In what kinds of jobs do workers need to protect themselves from dehydration and heatstroke?