NOVEL STUDY

WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS

By Wilson Rawls
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<td>Dictionary Detective! Chapters 15 – 16</td>
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<td>Understanding the Story Chapters 17 – 18</td>
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<td>Chapter Summary Chapters 17 – 18</td>
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<td>Dictionary Detective! Chapters 19 – 20</td>
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<td>Vocabulary Study Chapters 19 – 20</td>
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<td>Understanding the Story Chapters 19 – 20</td>
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</table>
### Dictionary Detective!
**Chapters 1 - 3**

*Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>residential</td>
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<tr>
<td>sanitation</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>sheen</td>
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<tr>
<td>fertile</td>
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<tr>
<td>aromatic</td>
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<tr>
<td>quavering</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the third paragraph of Chapter 1, the author says the fighting dogs "boiled out of the alley". Write two more examples of how one might describe the movements of fighting dogs.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Vocabulary Study
Chapters 1 - 3

Match Up
*Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.*

| residential • | • surface glow or shine |
| sanitation • | • capable of producing plentiful crops |
| sheen • | • having a pleasant smell |
| fertile • | • a slight shaking, vibration |
| aromatic • | • an area where people live |
| quavering • | • relating to public health and cleanliness |

Fill in the Blank
*Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>residential</th>
<th>sanitation</th>
<th>sheen</th>
<th>fertile</th>
<th>aromatic</th>
<th>quavering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. After polishing, the old silver cup had a beautiful __________________________.

2. Our county has the most ____________________________ land in the whole state.

3. Tim’s voice was ____________________________ when he stood up to the bullies.

4. Mice have become a problem in the ____________________________ part of the city.

5. The air outside is very ____________________________ when the flowers are in bloom.

6. The ____________________________ department collects our trash on Fridays.

A Little Extra!

In the third paragraph of Chapter 1, the author says the fighting dogs “boiled out of the alley”. Write two more examples of how one might describe the movements of fighting dogs.

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Understanding the Story
Chapters 1 - 3

Multiple Choice
1. When Billy is ten years old, what breed of dog does he want to own?
   (a) Collie.
   (b) Coonhound.
   (c) Beagle.
   (d) Foxhound.

2. What state does Billy live in?
   (a) Oklahoma.
   (b) Arkansas.
   (c) Missouri.
   (d) Texas.

Short Answer
3. The narrator decides to tell the story of the dogs he had when he was a boy. How does he begin the novel in order to introduce us to his past?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Long Answer
4. Why does Billy want a pair of dogs so badly? How does he plan to get them?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

How does Billy’s grandfather react when he sees how much money his grandson has saved?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

A Little Extra!
Chapter Summary
Chapters 1 - 3

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

2. What happens in these chapters?

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
Dictionary Detective!
Chapters 4 - 6

*Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>winced</td>
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<tr>
<td>depot</td>
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<tr>
<td>flailing</td>
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<tr>
<td>muster</td>
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<tr>
<td>querying</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>hampering</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary Study
Chapters 4 - 6

Which Word?
On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>winced</th>
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<th>muster</th>
<th>querying</th>
<th>hampering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. Asking questions in order to obtain information. _____________________________
2. Moving arms and legs in a jerky uneven manner. _____________________________
3. Stopping progress or movement. _____________________________
4. A building where large quantities of things are stored. _____________________________
5. Grimaced or shrank back due to an emotional reaction. _____________________________
6. To gather up; to summon. _____________________________

Making Sentences
Make a sentence for each word below.

1. Winced: ____________________________________________________________
2. Depot: ____________________________________________________________
3. Flailing: ____________________________________________________________
4. Muster: ____________________________________________________________
5. Querying: ____________________________________________________________
6. Hampering: ____________________________________________________________

A Little Extra!
In Chapter 5, Billy describes his face as being “as red as a fox’s tail”. This is a simile. Find another example of a simile in Chapter 5.

_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
Understanding the Story
Chapters 4 - 6

Multiple Choice
1. To what place are Billy’s dogs delivered?
   (a) To his grandfather’s store.
   (b) To a depot in a nearby town.
   (c) To Dripping Springs station.
   (d) To the local post office.

2. What or who gives Billy inspiration for his dogs’ names?
   (a) Names he sees carved on a tree trunk.
   (b) Two of his school friends.
   (c) A magazine story.
   (d) His little sister suggests them.

Short Answer
3. What kind of reception does Billy get when he arrives in Tahlequah?


Long Answer
4. How does Billy’s family react when he finally turns up with the puppies?


Choose one adjective of your own to describe Billy’s reaction to seeing his pups for the first time.


Chapter Summary
Chapters 4 - 6

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

________________________________________________________________________

2. What happens in these chapters?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

________________________________________________________________________

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4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?

________________________________________________________________________

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5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
Dictionary Detective!
Chapters 7 - 9

*Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>obstacle</td>
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<tr>
<td>peculiarity</td>
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<tr>
<td>persistence</td>
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<tr>
<td>limber</td>
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<tr>
<td>flabby</td>
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<tr>
<td>momentum</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In Chapter 7, Billy says some of the coon hunters’ tales were “long and tall”. In your own words, explain what this expression means.

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
Understanding the Story
Chapters 7 - 9

Multiple Choice
1. What does Grandpa show Billy when he asks him how to catch a coon?
   (a) A coonskin that attracts the animals.
   (b) A whistle that arouses the coon’s curiosity.
   (c) A lantern that draws in bugs that coons like to eat.
   (d) A special kind of trap.

2. How do Billy’s parents react to his desire to hunt?
   (a) His father thinks he is ready but his mother is worried.
   (b) Both parents are worried but Billy goes against their wishes.
   (c) His father is worried and asks Billy’s grandfather to talk the boy out of it.
   (d) Both his father and mother think that it is a great idea.

Short Answer
3. How does Billy train the dogs to be good coon hunters?

________________________________________________________________________
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Long Answer
4. What bargain does Billy make with Little Ann and Old Dan when they are finally ready to go coon hunting? What happens as a result of this promise?

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A Little Extra!

How will Billy make money from trapping coons?

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Chapter Summary
Chapters 7 - 9

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

_________________________________________________________________

2. What happens in these chapters?

_________________________________________________________________

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_________________________________________________________________

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

_________________________________________________________________

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_________________________________________________________________

4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?

_________________________________________________________________

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_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
Dictionary Detective!
Chapters 10 - 12

Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.

**nonchalantly**
Definition: ____________________________
______________________________

**belligerent**
Definition: ____________________________
______________________________

**underestimate**
Definition: ____________________________
______________________________

**ventilating**
Definition: ____________________________
______________________________

**begrudgingly**
Definition: ____________________________
______________________________

**designated**
Definition: ____________________________
______________________________
In Chapter 12, one of the Pritchards says Grandpa is “crooked”. What is he referring to and why do you think he says this?
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

Vocabulary Study
Chapters 10 - 12

Match Up
Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.

- nonchalantly • in a way that shows discontent or resentment
- belligerent • chosen for a particular job or task
- underestimate • hostile, wanting to fight
- ventilating • think something is not as good as it really is
- begrudgingly • done in a carefree and unconcerned manner
- designated • allowing air to enter and move around

Fill in the Blank
Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.

1. My sister ____________________ agreed to let me go to the movie with her.

2. Mom told me not to ____________________ how long it would take to save up for a tablet.

3. The teacher told Eva to stop being ____________________ with her classmates.

4. A man ____________________ approached my dad, grabbed his phone, and ran!

5. Our school ____________________ the sixth graders as recess litter collectors.

6. The holes are ____________________ the box so the kitten inside gets fresh air.

A Little Extra!
In Chapter 12, one of the Pritchards says Grandpa is “crooked”. What is he referring to and why do you think he says this?
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
Understanding the Story
Chapters 10 - 12

Multiple Choice
1. What do the adult coon hunters say about Little Ann?
   (a) That she is not very smart.
   (b) That her tail is too short.
   (c) That she does not look like a coonhound.
   (d) That she is too small.

2. In Chapter 10, where does Old Dan get trapped?
   (a) In the trunk of an old tree.
   (b) In a rabbit warren.
   (c) In a cave.
   (d) In the cellar of an abandoned house.

Short Answer
3. What does Billy do with the raccoon furs and the money he makes from them?

Long Answer
4. Explain how Little Ann almost drowns in Chapter 11 and how she is saved.

A Little Extra!
Besides hunting coons, what does Little Ann help Mama catch?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
Chapter Summary
Chapters 10 - 12

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?
________________________________________________________________________

2. What happens in these chapters?
________________________________________________________________________
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3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?
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4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?
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5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
Dictionary Detective!
Chapters 13 - 14

Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.

**taut**
Definition: __________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

**foliage**
Definition: __________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

**solemn**
Definition: __________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

**dumbfounded**
Definition: __________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

**jubilant**
Definition: __________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

**fleeting**
Definition: __________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________

Where the Red Fern Grows © The Book Umbrella
Vocabulary Study
Chapters 13 - 14

Which Word?
On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>taut</th>
<th>foliage</th>
<th>solemn</th>
<th>dumbfounded</th>
<th>jubilant</th>
<th>fleeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. Extremely happy, ecstatic. ________________________________
2. Plant leaves. __________________________________________
3. Astonished or amazed. __________________________________
4. Lasting a very short time. _______________________________
5. Pulled tight. __________________________________________
6. Very serious; not cheerful. ______________________________

Making Sentences
Make a sentence for each word below.

1. Taut: _________________________________________________
2. Foliage: _____________________________________________
3. Solemn: _____________________________________________
4. Dumbfounded: _________________________________________
5. Jubilant: _____________________________________________
6. Fleeting: ____________________________________________

A Little Extra!
List two adjectives that could describe how Billy felt about the taunting and teasing of the Pritchard boys.
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________
Understanding the Story
Chapters 13 - 14

Multiple Choice

1. Why does Rubin Pritchard call Billy “crazy” in Chapter 13?
   (a) Billy does not want to kill the ghost coon.
   (b) Billy will not use a gun to hunt coons.
   (c) Billy uses a female dog when he hunts.
   (d) Billy turns down a part-time job.

2. What does Grandpa give Billy after he tells him about the upcoming competition?
   (a) A new ax.
   (b) Factory-made collars for the dogs.
   (c) A bag of candy.
   (d) A book about coon hunting.

Short Answer

3. In Chapter 14, Grandpa tells his grandson about a contest that he thinks Billy should enter. What is the competition for and what has Grandpa done about it?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Long Answer

4. Why does Billy go coon hunting with the Pritchard brothers? What happens?

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A Little Extra!

Why does Billy go to the Pritchard place at the end of Chapter 13?
Chapter Summary
Chapters 13 - 14

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

_________________________________________________________________________

2. What happens in these chapters?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
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5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
## Dictionary Detective!
### Chapters 15 - 16

*Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.*

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Word</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>domain</td>
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<tr>
<td>monotonous</td>
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<tr>
<td>eliminated</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>flitting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>faltered</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strutted</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In Chapter 15, Billy hears someone praise his dogs and he says, “If my head had gotten any bigger, I know it would have burst”. Explain in your own words what he means by this.
Understanding the Story
Chapters 15 - 16

Multiple Choice
1. What does Billy get to do for the first time during the competition?
   (a) Stay up until midnight.
   (b) Ride in an automobile.
   (c) Listen to a radio.
   (d) Drink coffee.
2. What does Grandpa NOT do on the first night of competition hunting?
   (a) He breaks his arm.
   (b) He falls in the river.
   (c) He loses his glasses and his hat.
   (d) He kisses Little Ann.

Short Answer
3. What is Billy’s first impression of the campground?

Long Answer
4. Why does a hunter need to be persistent? How does Billy show persistence when he is hunting during the competition?

A Little Extra!
What does Billy hear the night before they arrive at the campground? Why is he upset about it?
Chapter Summary
Chapters 15 - 16

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?
   ____________________________________________________________

2. What happens in these chapters?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
Dictionary Detective!
Chapters 17 - 18

*Using a dictionary, find the definitions for the words below.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>leeward</td>
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<tr>
<td>momentary</td>
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<td>trudged</td>
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<tr>
<td>haggard</td>
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<tr>
<td>defiant</td>
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<tr>
<td>allotted</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In Chapter 17, the judge says he does not think the dogs will survive the storm. Billy realizes the judge’s “cold logic” is affecting his father and grandfather. Explain what the author means by “cold logic”.

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________

**Match Up**
*Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.*

| leeward | • walked slowly with heavy steps |
| momentary | • challenging authority; uncooperative |
| trudged | • happening for a short period of time |
| haggard | • gave someone their fair share of something |
| defiant | • the side protected from the wind |
| allotted | • looking worn out and unwell |

**Fill in the Blank**
*Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.*

1. We ______________________________ all over the fields looking for our lost kite.
2. My grandpa looked ______________________________ as he recovered from a bad cold.
3. The angry customer was ______________________________ when the storekeeper asked him to leave the shop.
4. The hikers rested on the ______________________________ side of the hill.
5. The pizza was cut up into slices and we were ______________________________ one each.
6. Jake suffered ______________________________ dizziness shortly after he hit his head.

**A Little Extra!**

In Chapter 17, the judge says he does not think the dogs will survive the storm. Billy realizes the judge’s “cold logic” is affecting his father and grandfather. Explain what the author means by “cold logic”.

_________________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________________
Understanding the Story
Chapters 17 - 18

Multiple Choice
1. When the dogs get lost in the storm, how does Billy lure Little Ann back?
   (a) By having Papa fire off his gun.
   (b) By having everyone yell Little Ann’s special call.
   (c) By scattering meat in different places.
   (d) By using his dog whistle.

2. Billy, Papa, and Grandpa win the hunting championship. What is the prize?
   (a) A gold bone and a hundred dollars.
   (b) Two trophies.
   (c) A gold trophy and three hundred dollars.
   (d) A silver trophy and a year’s supply of dog food.

Short Answer
3. Why do you think Billy does not want to turn back when the storm begins? Do you agree with his decision?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

Long Answer
4. What happens to Grandpa in Chapter 17? What is the result of this?

___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

A Little Extra!
Why does Billy lose consciousness in Chapter 18?
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
Chapter Summary
Chapters 17 - 18

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

________________________________________________________________________

2. What happens in these chapters?

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

________________________________________________________________________
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4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?

________________________________________________________________________
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5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
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<td>predatory</td>
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<td>wavered</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Vocabulary Study
Chapters 19 - 20

Which Word?
On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>predatory</th>
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1. Athletic; flexible. _____________________________
2. Something that causes trouble or suffering. _____________________________
3. To shake back and forth; quivered. _____________________________
4. That which preys on other animals. _____________________________
5. Split apart; cut in two. _____________________________
6. Very weak. _____________________________

Making Sentences
Make a sentence for each word below.

1. Predatory: ___________________________________
2. Lithe: ___________________________________
3. Cleaved: ___________________________________
4. Scourge: ___________________________________
5. Feeble: ___________________________________
6. Wavered: ___________________________________

A Little Extra!
At the end of the book, Billy says, “part of my life is buried” under where the red fern grows. What does he mean by this?
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________
Understanding the Story
Chapters 19 - 20

Multiple Choice
1. What kind of animal do Billy and his dogs confront in Chapter 19?  
   (a) A coyote.  
   (b) A mountain lion.  
   (c) A brown bear.  
   (d) A wolf.

2. What does Mama call the red fern growing on the dogs’ grave?  
   (a) A sign of bad news.  
   (b) A weed that Billy should pull up.  
   (c) A scared fern.  
   (d) A sign that the grave should be left in peace.

Short Answer
3. What is the legend of the red fern?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Long Answer
4. How do Big Dan and Little Ann die? How did you feel when you read about their deaths?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

How does Billy mark the place where Big Dan and Little Ann are buried?

__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
Chapter Summary
Chapters 19 - 20

1. If you were to give a title to this section of the book, what would it be?

2. What happens in these chapters?

3. What is your favorite part of this section of the book?

4. What new words did you learn in these chapters?

5. Draw a picture of something you think represents these chapters.
Time for a Test!  
*Where the Red Fern Grows*

**Part A – Multiple Choice**

1. What is the name of the dog that the narrator rescues in Chapter 1?  
(a) Old Blue.  
(b) Buddie.  
(c) Pal.  
(d) Mickey.

2. What area of the United States does Billy live in as a boy?  
(a) The Ozarks.  
(b) The Rockies.  
(c) The Blue Ridge Mountains.  
(d) The Adirondacks.

3. What does Billy read that inspires him to save for a pair of coonhounds?  
(a) A flyer posted in Grandpa’s store.  
(b) A letter from his cousin.  
(c) An advertisement in an old magazine.  
(d) A T.V. report about a pair of champion hounds.

4. Where do Billy’s new coonhound pups come from?  
(a) Ohio.  
(b) Georgia.  
(c) Kentucky.  
(d) Montana.

5. What fear does Billy have to train his dogs to overcome?  
(a) Fear of water.  
(b) Fear of kids.  
(c) Fear of birds.  
(d) Fear of trees.

6. What does Billy’s mother make with the first raccoon the dogs kill?  
(a) A soft toy for his little sister.  
(b) Coonskin gloves for Grandpa.  
(c) A coonskin hat for Billy.  
(d) She sews it into a bed quilt for Billy.

7. What is the name of Rubin Pritchard’s brother?  
(a) Rainie.  
(b) Robbie.  
(c) Rockie.  
(d) Randie.

8. How do Billy, Papa, and Grandpa travel to the hunting competition?  
(a) By Model-T Ford.  
(b) By foot.  
(c) By horse and buggy.  
(d) By train.

9. Why does Little Ann win a silver cup at the hunting competition?  
(a) Best assistant hunter.  
(b) Easiest to handle.  
(c) Most beautiful in show.  
(d) Most intelligent in show.
Time for a Test!

Where the Red Fern Grows

Part B – Short Answer

1. Give two examples from Where the Red Fern Grows that show Billy's determination.

________________________________________________________________________

2. Billy is the main character in Where the Red Fern Grows. Choose another character from the novel and explain why you think he or she plays an important part in the book. Use details from the story in your answer.

________________________________________________________________________

3. Nature plays an important role in Where the Red Fern Grows. Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why or why not?

________________________________________________________________________

Part C – Long Answer

1. What do you think Billy learned from having Little Ann and Old Dan in his life? Do you think it was worth him having them for just a few years? Support your answer with details from the story.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. What emotions do Billy and his family members feel as they leave their home in the hills for the last time? How does the author express his feelings about it at the end of the book, when he looks back as an adult?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
In the third paragraph of Chapter 1, the author says the fighting dogs “boiled out of the alley”. Write two more examples of how one might describe the movements of fighting dogs.

*Answers will vary.* Examples: “tumbled”, “swirled”, “rampaged”.

---

**Fill in the Blank**

*Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.*

1. After polishing, the old silver cup had a beautiful **sheen**.

2. Our county has the most **fertile** land in the whole state.

3. Tim’s voice was **quavering** when he stood up to the bullies.

4. Mice have become a problem in the **residential** part of the city.

5. The air outside is very **aromatic** when the flowers are in bloom.

6. The **sanitation** department collects our trash on Fridays.

---

**A Little Extra!**
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 1 - 3

Multiple Choice
1. When Billy is ten years old, what breed of dog does he want to own?
   (a) Collie.
   (b) Coonhound.
   (c) Beagle.
   (d) Foxhound.

2. What state does Billy live in?
   (a) Oklahoma.
   (b) Arkansas.
   (c) Missouri.
   (d) Texas.

Short Answer
3. The narrator decides to tell the story of the dogs he had when he was a boy. How does he begin the novel in order to introduce us to his past?

Example - When the novel begins the narrator is an adult living in Idaho. He rescues a dog from a dog fight and takes him home with him. It is a hound dog similar to a pair of hounds he had as a boy. He lets the dog go but the chain of events makes him remember his own dogs and he decides to tell their story.

Long Answer
4. Why does Billy want a pair of dogs so badly? How does he plan to get them?

Example - Billy lives in Oklahoma in the Ozarks region where hunting and trapping is a way of life. His father gives him some traps but every boy his age has a hunting dog and Billy wants a pair of specific dogs, coonhounds to hunt raccoons with. His parents do not have much money so he decides he will do any job he can to save the fifty dollars needed to buy them. He catches fish and sells them, sells vegetables from his mother’s garden, picks and sells berries, and the hides of whatever he can trap to his grandfather. In two years he saves enough to buy the pups.

A Little Extra!

How does Billy’s grandfather react when he sees how much money his grandson has saved?

Example - He is astonished that Billy has managed to save the money. He is emotional and has to blow his nose and there are tears in his eyes.
Vocabulary Study - Answer Key
Chapters 4 - 6

Which Word?
On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>winced</th>
<th>depot</th>
<th>flailing</th>
<th>muster</th>
<th>querying</th>
<th>hampering</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

1. Asking questions in order to obtain information.  
   **Answer:** querying

2. Moving arms and legs in a jerky uneven manner.  
   **Answer:** flailing

3. Stopping progress or movement.  
   **Answer:** hampering

4. A building where large quantities of things are stored.  
   **Answer:** depot

5. Grimaced or shrank back due to an emotional reaction.  
   **Answer:** winced

6. To gather up; to summon.  
   **Answer:** muster

Making Sentences
Make a sentence for each word below. - **Answers will vary.**

1. Winced: ______________________________________________________

2. Depot: ______________________________________________________

3. Flailing: ____________________________________________________

4. Muster: _____________________________________________________

5. Querying: __________________________________________________

6. Hampering: _________________________________________________

In Chapter 5, Billy describes his face as being “as red as a fox’s tail”. This is a simile. Find another example of a simile in Chapter 5.

Examples: “when the words came out they sounded like the squeaky old pulley on our well”; “like chickens coming home to roost, they flocked around me”; “(I)t screamed its way into the cave and rang like a blacksmith’s anvil against the rock wall.”
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 4 - 6

Multiple Choice

1. To what place are Billy’s dogs delivered?
   (a) To his grandfather’s store.
   (b) To a depot in a nearby town.
   (c) To Dripping Springs station.
   (d) To the local post office.

2. What or who gives Billy inspiration for his dogs’ names?
   (a) Names he sees carved on a tree trunk.
   (b) Two of his school friends.
   (c) A magazine story.
   (d) His little sister suggests them.

Short Answer

3. What kind of reception does Billy get when he arrives in Tahlequah?

Example - He looks dirty and disheveled from his long trek by foot from his house. People point and laugh at him. He gets into a fight with some of the local boys but the marshal breaks it up and is kind to him. The man at the depot is also kind to him when he goes to pick up the pups.

Long Answer

4. How does Billy’s family react when he finally turns up with the puppies?

Example - Billy had been worried they would be angry but although his parents were worried they are very glad to see him back. Grandpa had told them all about the puppies. His little sisters are thrilled about the dogs. When Billy gives his family members the gifts he bought with the extra money he had left over from his savings, they are all excited and grateful. The Colmans do not have much money for extras, so this is like Christmas for them.

A Little Extra!

Choose one adjective of your own to describe Billy’s reaction to seeing his pups for the first time.

Answers will vary. Examples: overjoyed, speechless, emotional.
In Chapter 7, Billy says some of the coon hunters’ tales were “long and tall.” In your own words, explain what this expression means.

Example - They had “stretched” the truth in the telling of their hunting stories.

Vocabulary Study - Answer Key
Chapters 7 - 9

Match Up
A synonym is a word that means the same as another word. For example, happy and joyful are synonyms. Match the vocabulary words with their synonyms!

- obstacle • flexible; loose
- peculiarity • quirk
- persistence • stretched; drooping
- limber • speed
- flabby • difficulty
- momentum • tenacity

Best Word
Circle the word which works best in each sentence.

1. Madison was able to untie the tight knot with a little (persistence / limber).
2. The gymnast was so (momentum / limber) she could bend backwards and touch her feet!
3. Jake’s broken wrist was an (peculiarity / obstacle) when it came to writing.
4. The skateboarder had gained a lot of (momentum / persistence) going down the hill.
5. The old pillow was (flabby / obstacle) because most of its feathers were gone.
6. My aunt’s cat actually likes to have baths – what a (peculiarity / flabby)!
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 7 - 9

Multiple Choice
1. What does Grandpa show Billy when he asks him how to catch a coon?
   (a) A coonskin that attracts the animals. 
   (b) A whistle that arouses the coon’s curiosity. 
   (c) A lantern that draws in bugs that coons like to eat. 
   (d) A special kind of trap.

2. How do Billy’s parents react to his desire to hunt?
   (a) His father thinks he is ready but his mother is worried. 
   (b) Both parents are worried but Billy goes against their wishes. 
   (c) His father is worried and asks Billy’s grandfather to talk the boy out of it. 
   (d) Both his father and mother think that it is a great idea.

Short Answer
3. How does Billy train the dogs to be good coon hunters?

Example - **Billy, with Grandpa’s help, devises a trap for the biggest coon down by the river. Finally he catches him in the trap and the dogs take the coon down. The coon’s skin is used to train the dogs, leaving a scent for them to follow. Billy’s oldest sister helps him drag the skin all over the place. Billy also has to teach the dogs not to be afraid of water so they will go into the creeks and river while hunting.**

Long Answer
4. What bargain does Billy make with Little Ann and Old Dan when they are finally ready to go coon hunting? What happens as a result of this promise?

Example - **He promises that he will get the coon (i.e. kill it) if they will tree one. When they do tree one, it’s in the biggest sycamore around. Billy has to work for hours cutting it down and even his father pitches in. He finally goes home for breakfast and when he goes back and begins to work again he gets so discouraged he almost quits. Billy then prays to God and soon he hears a rustling in the leaves of the big tree and soon it topples over. The dogs can now get the coon because he has kept his word to the dogs.**

How will Billy make money from trapping coons?

Example - **His grandfather will buy the skins from him.**
Vocabulary Study - Answer Key
Chapters 10 - 12

Match Up
Match the words in the left column to their definitions in the right column.

- nonchalantly: in a way that shows discontent or resentment
- belligerent: hostile, wanting to fight
- underestimate: think something is not as good as it really is
- ventilating: allowing air to enter and move around
- begrudgingly: done in a carefree and unconcerned manner
- designated: chosen for a particular job or task

Fill in the Blank
Complete each sentence by filling in the blanks with the provided vocabulary.

- nonchalantly
- belligerent
- underestimate
- ventilating
- begrudgingly
- designated

1. My sister **begrudgingly** agreed to let me go to the movie with her.
2. Mom told me not to **underestimate** how long it would take to save up for a tablet.
3. The teacher told Eva to stop being **belligerent** with her classmates.
4. A man **nonchalantly** approached my dad, grabbed his phone, and ran!
5. Our school **designated** the sixth graders as recess litter collectors.
6. The holes are **ventilating** the box so the kitten inside gets fresh air.

In Chapter 12, one of the Pritchards says Grandpa is “crooked”. What is he referring to and why do you think he says this?

Example - **Rainie Pritchard implies that Grandpa is dishonest about how many coons Billy has killed and he is crooked, meaning he is dishonest because he thinks all storekeepers are dishonest.**
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 10 - 12

Multiple Choice

1. What do the adult coon hunters say about Little Ann?
   (a) That she is not very smart.
   (b) That her tail is too short.
   (c) That she does not look like a coonhound.
   (d) **That she is too small.**

2. In Chapter 10, where does Old Dan get trapped?
   (a) In the trunk of an old tree.
   (b) In a rabbit warren.
   (c) In a cave.
   (d) In the cellar of an abandoned house.

Short Answer

3. What does Billy do with the raccoon furs and the money he makes from them?

Example - **Billy waits until he has a good bundle of furs to take to his grandfather who sells them on to buyers back east. Raccoon fur coats are fashionable. He gives all the money he makes to his father because he is not concerned about making money himself, he just loves to hunt.**

Long Answer

4. Explain how Little Ann almost drowns in Chapter 11 and how she is saved.

Example - **Billy takes the dogs out after days of snow even though the weather is not good. The dogs are soon on the trail of a raccoon which they track back to the house and then to the river bottoms again. Then he loses them until he hears a moan from Old Dan. Billy finds the dog and sees that the dogs had chased the raccoon over the foggy river and Little Ann is stuck on a piece of ice, holding on desperately. If Billy goes on the ice he will break it. He gets an idea and removes his lantern’s handle and straightens it out. He wades out up to his chin and then uses the hooked lantern handle to pull Ann towards him by her collar. He and Old Dan work to revive her and she is safe.**

A Little Extra!

Besides hunting coons, what does Little Ann help Mama catch?

Example - **She catches chickens for Mama and does it without hurting a feather on them.**
Vocabulary Study - Answer Key
Chapters 13 - 14

Which Word?
On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>taut</th>
<th>foliage</th>
<th>solemn</th>
<th>dumbfounded</th>
<th>jubilant</th>
<th>fleeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
1. Extremely happy, ecstatic.    jubilant
2. Plant leaves.    foliage
3. Astonished or amazed.   dumbfounded
4. Lasting a very short time. fleeting
5. Pulled tight.    taut
6. Very serious; not cheerful. solemn

Making Sentences
Make a sentence for each word below. - Answers will vary.

1. Taut: ______________________________________________________

2. Foliage: ____________________________________________________

3. Solemn: _____________________________________________________

4. Dumbfounded: _______________________________________________

5. Jubilant: ____________________________________________________

6. Fleeting: ___________________________________________________

A Little Extra!
List two adjectives that could describe how Billy felt about the taunting and teasing of the Pritchard boys.

Examples- Angry, uncomfortable, vengeful.
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 13 - 14

Multiple Choice

1. Why does Rubin Pritchard call Billy “crazy” in Chapter 13?
   (a) **Billy does not want to kill the ghost coon.**
   (b) Billy will not use a gun to hunt coons.
   (c) Billy uses a female dog when he hunts.
   (d) Billy turns down a part-time job.

2. What does Grandpa give Billy after he tells him about the upcoming competition?
   (a) A new ax.
   (b) Factory-made collars for the dogs.
   (c) A **bag of candy.**
   (d) A book about coon hunting.

Short Answer

3. In Chapter 14, Grandpa tells his grandson about a contest that he thinks Billy should enter. What is the competition for and what has Grandpa done about it?

Example - *It is a coon hunting competition. Grandpa has kept track of the coons that Billy’s dogs have killed and written letters to get them into the competition. He has already paid the entry fee for Billy to participate with Old Dan and Little Ann.*

Long Answer

4. Why does Billy go coon hunting with the Pritchard brothers? What happens?

Example - *Billy runs into the Pritchard boys, who are mean and belligerent, at his grandfather’s store. They bet Billy that his dogs cannot take down the biggest and smartest coon in the hills, known as the “ghost coon”. The next night he meets them at a designated place and the dogs immediately pick up the trail. Old Dan trees the coon but the boys refuse to pay up their end of the bet. Soon their dog Old Blue shows up. The boys begin to fight, Rubin grabs Billy’s ax and threatens to kill his dogs. A stick catches between Rubin’s legs and he falls, the ax plunging into his chest. The boy dies due to loss of blood.*

A Little Extra!

Why does Billy go to the Pritchard place at the end of Chapter 13?

Example - *He goes to the Pritchard place to place some flowers on Rubin’s grave.*
In Chapter 15, Billy hears someone praise his dogs and he says, “If my head had gotten any bigger, I know it would have burst”. Explain in your own words what he means by this.

Examples - The praise makes him feel very proud and confident about his dogs. He might also be making fun of himself for getting such a “swelled head” that he thinks too much of himself.
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 15 - 16

**Multiple Choice**

1. What does Billy get to do for the first time during the competition?
   (a) Stay up until midnight.
   (b) Ride in an automobile.
   (c) Listen to a radio.
   (d) Drink coffee.

2. What does Grandpa NOT do on the first night of competition hunting?
   (a) He breaks his arm.
   (b) He falls in the river.
   (c) He loses his glasses and his hat.
   (d) He kisses Little Ann.

**Short Answer**

3. What is Billy’s first impression of the campground?

Example - *He is amazed at the number of people there; he has never seen so many people in one place. Tents are set up all over the place, covering an acre and a half. There are odd-looking cars, buggies, wagons, and saddle horses.*

**Long Answer**

4. Why does a hunter need to be persistent? How does Billy show persistence when he is hunting during the competition?

*Answers will vary to the first part of the question.* Example - *Billy refuses to give up even when the dogs disappear and the weather gets bad. His persistence in trying different solutions leads to the dogs being found.*

---

**A Little Extra!**

What does Billy hear the night before they arrive at the campground? Why is he upset about it?

Example - *He hears two screech owls in a row, which is a superstition that bad luck is coming. He is worried they will have bad luck at the competition.*
In Chapter 17, the judge says he does not think the dogs will survive the storm. Billy realizes the judge’s “cold logic” is affecting his father and grandfather. Explain what the author means by “cold logic”.

Answers will vary. Examples - The judge is looking at reality straight on and has given up hope. He is unemotional about it.
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 17 - 18

Multiple Choice

1. When the dogs get lost in the storm, how does Billy lure Little Ann back?
   (a) By having Papa fire off his gun.
   (b) By having everyone yell Little Ann's special call.
   (c) By scattering meat in different places.
   (d) By using his dog whistle.

2. Billy, Papa, and Grandpa win the hunting championship. What is the prize?
   (a) A gold bone and a hundred dollars.
   (b) Two trophies.
   (c) A gold trophy and three hundred dollars.
   (d) A silver trophy and a year’s supply of dog food.

Short Answer

3. Why do you think Billy does not want to turn back when the storm begins? Do you agree with his decision?

Example - Billy had worked so hard to enter the competition and while he wants to win, he does not want to desert his dogs who had also worked so hard. The dogs rely on him to make sure they are safe. Answers to the second part of the question will vary.

Long Answer

4. What happens to Grandpa in Chapter 17? What is the result of this?

Example - Billy finally finds his dogs in the storm but when he gets back to Papa he finds out that Grandpa is lost. Fortunately Little Ann’s tracking ability means she finds him fairly quickly. Grandpa has lost consciousness after falling and also has an injured ankle. He regains consciousness and does not want anyone to go for help in case they get lost too. He says to wait until daylight. They build a fire for Grandpa to keep him warm and do their best to ease his pain by warming up a coonskin and wrapping it around his ankle. In Chapter 18, men show up looking for them and Grandpa is carried back to camp.

A Little Extra!

Why does Billy lose consciousness in Chapter 18?

Example - Mr Benson runs back from looking for the dogs and tells the men and Billy that Little Ann and Old Dan are frozen solid - Billy thinks they are dead.
Vocabulary Study - Answer Key
Chapters 19 - 20

Which Word?
On the provided lines, write the matching vocabulary word for each definition.

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</table>

1. Athletic; flexible.  
   *Answer: lithe*

2. Something that causes trouble or suffering.  
   *Answer: scourge*

3. To shake back and forth; quivered.  
   *Answer: wavered*

4. That which preys on other animals.  
   *Answer: predatory*

5. Split apart; cut in two.  
   *Answer: cleaved*

6. Very weak.  
   *Answer: feeble*

Making Sentences
Make a sentence for each word below. *Answers will vary.*

1. Predatory: ____________________________________________

2. Lithe: _________________________________________________

3. Cleaved: ________________________________________________

4. Scourge: ________________________________________________

5. Feeble: _________________________________________________

6. Wavered: _________________________________________________

A Little Extra!
At the end of the book, Billy says, “part of my life is buried” under where the red fern grows. What does he mean by this?

Example - *That time period from his boyhood has been symbolically buried with the dogs.*
Understanding the Story - Answer Key
Chapters 19 - 20

Multiple Choice
1. What kind of animal do Billy and his dogs confront in Chapter 19?
   (a) A coyote.
   (b) A mountain lion.
   (c) A brown bear.
   (d) A wolf.

2. What does Mama call the red fern growing on the dogs’ grave?
   (a) A sign of bad news.
   (b) A weed that Billy should pull up.
   (c) A scared fern.
   (d) A sign that the grave should be left in peace.

Short Answer
3. What is the legend of the red fern?

Example - The legend is an old Indian legend about a boy and girl who get lost in a blizzard and freeze to death. When they are found after the winter is over, a red fern has grown up between them, sheltering them. The Indians consider the red fern to be sacred and only an angel can plant the seeds.

Long Answer
4. How do Big Dan and Little Ann die? How did you feel when you read about their deaths?

Example - Big Dan and Little Ann defend Billy from a surprise attack from a mountain lion. The lion slashes Big Dan’s abdomen and some of his entrails come out. Even though Mama does her best to treat the wound, he sickens and dies. Little Ann soon dies of grief. Answers will vary to the second part of the question.

A Little Extra!
How does Billy mark the place where Big Dan and Little Ann are buried?
Example - He finds a stone and carves their names on it.
Time for a Test! - Answer Key

Where the Red Fern Grows

Part A – Multiple Choice

1. What is the name of the dog that the narrator rescues in Chapter 1?
   (a) Old Blue.
   (b) Buddie.
   (c) Pal.
   (d) Mickey.

2. What area of the United States does Billy live in as a boy?
   (a) The Ozarks.
   (b) The Rockies.
   (c) The Blue Ridge Mountains.
   (d) The Adirondacks.

3. What does Billy read that inspires him to save for a pair of coonhounds?
   (a) A flyer posted in Grandpa’s store.
   (b) A letter from his cousin.
   (c) An advertisement in an old magazine.
   (d) A T.V. report about a pair of champion hounds.

4. Where do Billy’s new coonhound pups come from?
   (a) Ohio.
   (b) Georgia.
   (c) Kentucky.
   (d) Montana.

5. What fear does Billy have to train his dogs to overcome?
   (a) Fear of water.
   (b) Fear of kids.
   (c) Fear of birds.
   (d) Fear of trees.

6. What does Billy’s mother make with the first raccoon the dogs kill?
   (a) A soft toy for his little sister.
   (b) Coonskin gloves for Grandpa.
   (c) A coonskin hat for Billy.
   (d) She sews it into a bed quilt for Billy.

7. What is the name of Rubin Pritchard’s brother?
   (a) Rainie.
   (b) Robbie.
   (c) Rockie.
   (d) Randie.

8. How do Billy, Papa, and Grandpa travel to the hunting competition?
   (a) By Model-T Ford.
   (b) By foot.
   (c) By horse and buggy.
   (d) By train.

9. Why does Little Ann win a silver cup at the hunting competition?
   (a) Best assistant hunter.
   (b) Easiest to handle.
   (c) Most beautiful in show.
   (d) Most intelligent in show.
Time for a Test! - Answer Key

Where the Red Fern Grows

Part B – Short Answer

1. Give two examples from Where the Red Fern Grows that show Billy’s determination.

Example - **Billy shows great determination when he sets out to save the money needed to buy the dogs. It takes him two years to do it, but he never gives up. He also shows a lot of determination in training the dogs to be good hunters and keeps at it until the dogs are properly trained.**

2. Billy is the main character in Where the Red Fern Grows. Choose another character from the novel and explain why you think he or she plays an important part in the book. Use details from the story in your answer.

*Answers will vary.*

3. Nature plays an important role in Where the Red Fern Grows. Do you agree or disagree with this statement and why or why not?

*Answers will vary.* Examples - *The process of hunting comes from nature, the habits of the coons and other wild animals are natural, and the weather plays an important part at different points in the novel.*

Part C – Long Answer

1. What do you think Billy learned from having Little Ann and Old Dan in his life? Do you think it was worth him having them for just a few years? Support your answer with details from the story.

*Answers will vary.* Examples - *He learned about his own character and how he could work hard for something he really wanted. He also learned that it took time and persistence to train the dogs to be good hunters.*

2. What emotions do Billy and his family members feel as they leave their home in the hills for the last time? How does the author express his feelings about it at the end of the book, when he looks back as an adult?

Example - *The family is actually quite happy to leave the Ozarks, to embark on a new adventure in life. Billy knows he has to say goodbye to his dogs and that they will always be there, where they were happy hunting dogs. When he looks back on that time of his childhood he admits he has never returned to the Ozarks, although he would like to some day. He would like to get in touch with the natural world of the Ozarks, and to find his old ax and lantern. He would like to see the dogs’ grave covered with the red fern, covered but not hiding his memories of his own that are buried there with the dogs. He still believes in the legend of the sacred red fern.*
Before Reading

Title of Book: ________________________________

Author of Book: ________________________________

Have you read anything by this author before? If so, what was it?

____________________________________________________________________________________

Look at the front cover. What hints do you think it gives about the story?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Read the back cover. What do you learn about the story from the back cover?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Based on the front and back covers, do you want to read this book? Why or why not?

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________
Who was Wilson Rawls?

Use the internet and other resources to research the author of *Where the Red Fern Grows*, Wilson Rawls.

Before Researching

1. What do you already know about Wilson Rawls?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. What do you want find out about Wilson Rawls?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

After Researching

3. What have you learned from your research?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

4. Where did you get your information?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
My Character Chart

Draw a picture and record important information about each important character as you read the text.

Character’s Name: ________________________________

Important Facts: _________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Character’s Name: ________________________________

Important Facts: _________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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Character’s Name: ________________________________

Important Facts: _________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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Character’s Name: ________________________________

Important Facts: _________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________
Making Predictions

Can you predict the future? What do you think will happen next in the story? Write down two predictions inside the crystal balls. Revisit this page later to answer the last question.

Prediction 1

Why do you think this will happen?

Why do you think this will happen?

Prediction 2

Why do you think this will happen?

Why do you think this will happen?

Did any of your predictions come true?

What ended up happening in the story?
Plot Mountain

A story’s plot is made up of five parts: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action and conclusion. After you’ve finished reading Where the Red Fern Grows, fill in the spaces below.

3. Climax
The most exciting and emotional part of the story.

2. Rising Action
The things that happen to push the story forward as we head toward the climax.

4. Falling Action
The events that happened during the climax are dealt with.

1. Exposition
We learn background information about the story’s characters, setting, and basic plot.

5. Conclusion
The story comes to an end.
Story Timeline
Fill in the plot timeline by deciding on the most important plot points of *Where the Red Fern Grows* and recording them in the order they happen.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

End
What is Conflict?
Conflict refers to the problems and challenges that make stories interesting and move plots along. Conflict is an important part of any story. Below are some of the different conflict types you may encounter as you read.

**Man Versus Man**
Two or more characters struggle against each other.

**Man Versus Nature**
A character struggles against a force of nature such as the weather or an animal.

**Man Versus Society**
A character struggles against a part of society such as a company, religion, school, etc.

**Man Versus Self**
A character struggles to overcome his or her own weaknesses.

Look for some examples of conflict in *Where the Red Fern Grows* and add them to the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example of Conflict</th>
<th>Type of Conflict</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
1. Describe the setting of *Where the Red Fern Grows*. When and where does it take place?

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Draw a picture of a setting described in the story.

3. Explain what you have drawn above.

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________________________________
What is a Theme?

The theme a central topic or idea of a story. A story can have one or more themes. Some examples of themes are acceptance, cooperation, bravery and determination.

What do you think one theme of *Where the Red Fern Grows* is?

One theme of *Where the Red Fern Grows* is...

Find three examples from the book that supports this as one of the themes.

1. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

2. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________

3. __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________
Problem Solving
An important part of any story is the problem which the main character faces. Write down the main problem faced in *Where the Red Fern Grows* below, then brainstorm some possible solutions to the problem.

**The Main Problem of the Story**

Solution Idea 1

Solution Idea 2

Solution Idea 3

Solution Idea 4
Cause and Effect

An action or development in a story is the ‘cause’. The result of the action or development is the ‘effect’. Find some examples of cause and effect in *Where the Red Fern Grows* and record them below.

**Cause**

**Effect**

**Cause**

**Effect**

**Cause**

**Effect**

**Cause**

**Effect**
Character Types

In fictional stories, there are many different types of characters that play different roles. Read about different character types below, and decide which character from *Where the Red Fern Grows* fits each character type. (Some characters may fit more than one character type).

**Major Characters**
Major characters play a big part in the story. They influence the plot and take part in solving the main problem of the story.

*Example(s) from the book:*

**Minor Characters**
Minor characters pop up to help (or hurt) the story’s major characters.

*Example(s) from the book:*

**The Protagonist**
The protagonist is the main character of the story. Stories are often told from their point of view.

*Example(s) from the book:*

**The Antagonist**
The antagonist is the character (or characters) who causes problems for the protagonist.

*Example(s) from the book:*

**Dynamic Characters**
Dynamic characters change through the story, usually because they overcome a challenge which makes them grow as a person.

*Example(s) from the book:*

**Static Characters**
Static characters do not change. Their personalities and attitudes are the same at the end of the story as they were at the beginning.

*Example(s) from the book:*

**Round Characters**
Round characters have complicated personalities and more than one character trait.

*Example(s) from the book:*

**Flat Characters**
Flat characters don’t have complicated personalities. Readers know them by only one character trait.

*Example(s) from the book:*
Character Map

Write a different character name in each bubble below. Then, draw different styles of lines in different colors (as shown in the Relationship Key) to show the relationships between each character.

Relationship Key

Friends — — — — — — —
Family ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～
Enemies ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～

Classmates/Co-workers
Teacher/Boss ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～
Other ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～ ～
Facts and Opinions

A fact is something that is proven to be true.
An example of a fact is, “The month after July is August”.

An opinion is a feeling or belief about something.
An example of an opinion is, “July is the best month of the year!”

In the spaces below, record four facts and four opinions about Where the Red Fern Grows.

**Facts**

1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________

**Opinions**

1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________
Persuasive Writing

To be persuasive is to be good at convincing people to think a certain way.

Write a persuasive passage in which you try to convince your readers that they should either read or not read Where the Red Fern Grows. Make sure to include reasons for why you think the story is good or bad using examples from the text. For example, if you tell your readers that the story is funny, tell them about something funny that happens in the book.

With this passage, what do you hope to persuade your readers to do?

☐ Read this book!    ☐ Don’t read this book!

______________________________  ______________________________
Name:                                        Date:
# Quotation Quest

Skim the novel and write down three favorite quotations, or quotations you think are important to the story.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotation</th>
<th>From page #</th>
<th>Why I chose this quotation</th>
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<tbody>
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</table>

**Name:**__________________________________________  **Date:**_____________________________________

*Where the Red Fern Grows © The Book Umbrella*
Character Comparison

Choose two characters from *Where the Red Fern Grows* and compare them to each other. What are their similarities and what are their differences?

The similarities these characters share

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

The differences between these characters

Character 1

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Character 2

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________
Story Comparison
Compare *Where the Red Fern Grows* to another story you have read.
What are their similarities and what are their differences?

**Where the Red Fern Grows**

The similarities these stories share
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

The differences between these stories
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________

Name:____________________________________________ Date:_____________________________________

*Where the Red Fern Grows* © The Book Umbrella
My Life - Making Connections

In the spaces below, make comparisons between your life and the life of a character of your choosing from Where the Red Fern Grows.

Character Name: ________________________________

Similarities

[Blank spaces for comparisons]

Differences

[Blank spaces for comparisons]
# Reading Log

Record information about the books you read on this chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comments</th>
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<td>Book Title</td>
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</table>
Common Core State Standards
This novel study is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (U.S.)

Grade 4
RL4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
RL4.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.
RL4.3 Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).
RL4.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).
L4.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
L4.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Grade 5
RL5.1 Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
RL5.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
RL5.3 Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., how characters interact).
RL5.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.
L5.4 Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 5 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
L5.5 Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Grade 6
RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
RL.6.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.
RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone
RL.6.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene, or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting, or plot.
RL.6.6 Explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

Grade 7
RL.7.1 Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
RL.7.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
RL.7.3 Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact (how setting shapes characters or plot).
RL.7.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of rhymes and other repetitions of sounds (e.g., alliteration) on a specific verse or stanza of a poem or section of a story or drama.
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