

*Where the Red Fern Grows*  
Chapters XV-XVII

**BEFORE READING**

**Part 1:** Below are the sentences in which the vocabulary words appear in the text. Read the sentence. Use context clues, combined with your prior knowledge, and write what you think the underlined words mean on the lines provided. (1 point each)

1. With an astonished look on his face, Grandpa exclaimed, "Well, I'll be darned."

---

2. An eerie screech from a tree close by made shivers run up and down my spine.

---

3. His body was stiff and straight, his head high in the air, his large muscles quivered and jerked under his glassy coat, but something went wrong.

---

4. Grandpa very gingerly started picking his way. His tender old feet moved from one smooth rock to another.

---

5. We could tell they were coming so we doused all the fires and, sure enough, they came right through camp.

---

6. Once during a momentary lull of the storm, I thought I heard the baying of a hound.

---

7. Old Dan was treed down in a deep gully. I slid off the bank and ran to him.

---

8. Papa notched the old snag so it would fall away from our fire.

---

9. Old Dan made a lunge.

---

**Part 2:** Match the vocabulary words to their dictionary definitions. (1 point each)

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| _____ 1. astonished | A. strange and frightening                |
| _____ 2. eerie      | B. put out; extinguished                  |
| _____ 3. quivered   | C. filled with sudden wonder or amazement |
| _____ 4. gingerly   | D. shook with a slight, rapid movement    |
| _____ 5. doused     | E. with great care or delicacy; cautious  |
| _____ 6. lull       | F. a relatively calm interval             |
| _____ 7. gully      | I. a deep ditch or channel                |

**DURING READING: Chapters 15-17** – Provide **text-based details** to explain each character, event, or setting.

coffee (1 pt.)	1. the first cup of coffee Billy ever had 2.
Screech Owl (1 pt.)	1. 2. Grandpa said that's not true
Small silver cup (2 pts.)	1. 2.
Fourth night (1 pt.)	1. 2. Different hunting parties get chosen for different nights
Wet clothes (1 pt.)	1. 2. his clothes were wet and he dried them at camp
sleet (2 pts.)	1. The ground was covered in sleet when they went out to hunt 2. 3.
"shoot the gun" (1 pt.)	1. 2. Billy was hoping the hounds would hear and come to him
"I think he's gone." "I don't think so." (2 pts.)	1. 2.
"three big coons" (1 pt.)	1. Old Dan and Little Ann were fighting 3 big coons that came out of the hollow tree trunk

**AFTER READING**

Part 1: Read each question. Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided. HINT: Read over questions before reading. (1 point each)

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. What "first" happened on the trip that made Billy feel more grown up?

- A. He was allowed to stand watch over the camp during the night.
- B. His grandfather gave him a cup of coffee.
- C. His father offered him a cigarette.
- D. His grandfather let him drive the buggy.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Which contest did Billy enter first, and what was the result?

- A. He entered both dogs in an obedience contest. They won second place and red ribbons.
- B. He entered Little Ann in a beauty contest. She won first place and a small silver cup.
- C. He entered Old Dan in a swimming contest. He won first place and a gold medal.
- D. He entered a whooping and hollering contest. He came in third and got a very sore throat.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. True or False: On their first night of hunting, Billy thought they should go far down river out of range of where the others had gone.

- A. True
- B. False

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Where did the hounds run the first coon, and what was the result?

- A. They ran it into the river and it got away from them. They were behind in the contest.
- B. They ran it up a nearby tree. Billy was able to get it down by shaking a branch at it. The hounds had an easy kill.
- C. They ran the coon near the camp. The men doused all of the fires and the coon ran straight through the camp.
- D. They ran it so far up the road that another pair of hounds caught it and killed it. They got the credit for the kill.

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. How many coons did the dogs kill on their first night of competition?

- A. They killed five coons.
- B. They killed one coon.
- C. They killed two coons.
- D. They killed three coons.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. What about the dogs surprised the judge?

- A. He was surprised that they had so much energy, because they were so little.
- B. He was surprised they didn't fight with each other. He said most male/female pairs had ongoing battles while hunting.
- C. He was surprised that the dogs were able to find the scent when the coon had gone so far out on the river bottoms.
- D. He was surprised that they seemed to understand so much of what Billy said to them.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Why did one of the hunters come around with a small box in his hands?

- A. He was asking for food donations for the big party at the end of the contest.

- B. He was collecting money for a jackpot for the winner.
- C. He had found the box and wanted to locate the owner.
- D. He was a woodworker. He was selling the boxes as souvenirs.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. True or False: Billy wanted to go back to the swamp on the final night. The area was the same distance from the mountains and the river, and he thought he would have a better chance of catching a lot of coons.

- A. True
- B. False

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. The judge saw the two hounds stop and stare at Billy at the beginning of the hunt. What was Billy's explanation for their actions?

- A. He said they were waiting for directions on which way to go.
- B. He said they were asking how many hunters were coming.
- C. He said they always liked to look at him and get his scent before they went hunting.
- D. He said he could feel that they knew the hunt was important.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. What other action surprised the judge?

- A. After the dogs had killed the coon, they licked and doctored each other's wounds.
- B. Each of the dogs refused to eat until the other had been fed.
- C. They jumped up on Billy and wagged their tails after the hunt was finished.
- D. The hounds would only let Billy pet them. They growled whenever anyone else got near them.

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. What was the weather like on this part of the hunt?

- A. There was a hurricane starting up.
- B. It was very cold, but clear.
- C. There was a sleet storm. It was cold and icy.
- D. There was a blizzard, with about a foot of snow.

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. The judge said he thought they should all go back to camp and leave the dogs where they were. Billy refused to leave his dogs. He said they would die before they would leave a coon in a tree. What did they all finally do?

- A. Only Billy stayed.
- B. They all stayed.
- C. Billy and his grandfather stayed. The others went back to camp.
- D. Billy, his father, and his grandfather stayed. The judge went back to camp.

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. Which of the following did not happen to Billy's grandfather?

- A. He caught his foot in a hidden steel trap.
- B. He was unconscious from the pain.
- C. Little Ann found him.
- D. Papa and the judge carried him to a nearby gully and made him as comfortable as possible.