

Where the Red Fern Grows
Chapters I, II, III, IV

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. It was too much for him and he took off down the street, squalling like a scalded cat.

2. I kept coaxing. On his stomach, an inch at a time, he came to me and laid his head in my hand.

3. It's strange indeed how memories can lie dormant in a man's mind for so many years.

4. I figured something drastic must have happened in his life, as it is very unusual for a hound to be traveling all alone.

5. Water from a rain puddle or a mountain stream would quench his thirst and cool his hot dry throat.

6. It starts gnawing on his heart, and gets all mixed up in his dreams.

7. I mulled them over in my mind.

8. Next, I went to the barn and up in the loft far back over the hay and up under the eaves, I hid my can.

9. After leaving the mountain stream, my pace was much slower.

10. Feeling the pangs of hunger gnawing at my stomach, I decided I would stop and eat at the next stream I found.

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

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| _____ 1. squalling | A. persuading by pleading or flattery |
| _____ 2. coaxing | B. severe or radical in nature; extreme |
| _____ 3. dormant | C. afflicting or worrying persistently |
| _____ 4. drastic | D. overhang at the edge of a roof |
| _____ 5. quench | E. sudden sharp spasms of pain |
| _____ 6. gnawing | F. screaming or crying loudly |
| _____ 7. mulled | G. inactive but capable of being activated |
| _____ 8. eaves | H. to satisfy |
| _____ 9. pace | I. gone over extensively |
| _____ 10. pangs | J. rate of speed for walking or running |
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DURING READING: As you read chapter 1-4, complete the graphic organizer using details from the text.

Chapters 1-2 – Provide **text-based details** to explain each character, event, or setting:

dog fight (2 pts.)	1. Billy as a grown man saw a dog fight when he left work 2. 3.
"Buddie" (1 pt.)	1. reminds him of dogs he had as a boy 2.
Cherokee land (1 pt.)	1. Billy's mom inherited the land 2.
3 small steel traps (2 pts)	1. Billy's father brought them home for him 2. 3.
Samie (2 pts.)	1. Billy's family house cat 2. 3.

the deep baying of a coon hound (1 pt.)	1. Billy hears this sound at night along with hunters whooping 2.
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DURING READING: As you read chapter 1-4, complete the graphic organizer using details from the text.

Chapters 3-4 – Provide **text-based details** to explain each character, event, or setting:

Sportmen’s magazine (2 pts.)	1. 2.
K.C. Baking Powder can (2 pts.)	1. 2.
“Two years!” (1 pt.)	1. 2. Grandpa says this because he is shocked when he finds out about it
Ten dollar bill (1 pt.)	1. Billy’s grandpa gave him ten dollars change because the dogs cost less than they thought 2.
Twenty miles (1 pt.)	1. 2. He walked all the way here to pick up his dogs
Tahlequah (1 pt.)	1. 2. People here give him funny looks; he feels out of place
“hillbilly” (2 pts.)	1. 2.

AFTER READING

Part 1: Answer the following questions with complete sentences.

1. Infer: Why does Billy (as a man in Chapter 1) mention the state of Idaho on p.4?

2. How do you know the story is told in first person point of view? _____

Read the following quote: "I do declare, what kind of a question is that? How far is it to Kentucky? I don't know what's gotten into that mind of yours lately." (p. 26)

3. Who said it?

4. What was going on at the time?

5. What do these words **show** us about the speaker? _____

Part 2: Read each question. Write the letter of the correct answer on the line provided. HINT: Read over questions before reading. (1 point each)

_____ 1. True or False: The story is introduced in the present time in Chapter I. From Chapter II on, the story is told as a **first** person flashback.

A. True

B. False

_____ 2. What is the **setting** of the novel?

A. It is set in the Sycamore Swamp in southern Tennessee.

B. It is set in the Ozark mountains in northeastern Oklahoma.

C. It is set on the Talequah River Bottoms in southwestern Illinois.

D. It is set on a Cherokee reservation in Kentucky.

_____ 3. The main character defined puppy love as the first time he was in love with a girl.

A. True

B. False

_____ 4. What did Papa give the boy in place of what he wanted?

A. He gave the boy a shotgun.

B. He gave the boy his own horse and saddle.

C. He gave the boy a thoroughbred collie pup.

D. Papa gave him three small steel traps.

_____ 5. Why couldn't the boy have what he wanted?

A. His parents were too poor and they couldn't afford it.

B. It was against his parents' religious beliefs.

C. His parents didn't want to spoil him by giving him everything he asked for.

D. His mother thought he was too young to have the object he wanted.

_____ 6. How long did it take the boy to earn the money?

A. It took him six months.

B. It took him two years.

C. It took him three months.

D. It took him four years.

_____ 7. How did the boy earn the money to get what he wanted?

- A. He worked in other men's fields. He grew vegetables and sold them to tourists. He picked blackberries and sold them to his grandfather. He trapped small animals and sold the furs to his grandfather.
- B. He sold bait, fresh vegetables, and roasting corn to the fishermen. He picked blackberries and sold them to his grandfather. His grandfather paid him to deliver items from the store to the customers.
- C. He cleaned and skinned fish for the fishermen, planted and maintained gardens for the neighboring women, and did odd jobs around his grandfather's store.
- D. He sold bait, fresh vegetables, and roasting corn to the fishermen. He picked blackberries and sold them to his grandfather. He trapped small animals and sold the furs to his grandfather.

_____ 8. What was his grandfather's reaction when the boy told him of his plan?

- A. His grandfather thought it was a bad idea and he would not help.
- B. His grandfather said since he had done such a good job getting the money he could do the rest of the work himself as well.
- C. His grandfather said he would help the boy, because he had worked so hard for what he wanted.
- D. His grandfather said he had to ask his parents' permission to make the purchase.

_____ 9. Which did not happen on the boy's journey to pick up his purchase?

- A. He stole cloth, candy, and overalls from the general store.
- B. He walked to a town about thirty miles from his home.
- C. He had never been to a town before, and he was rather scared.
- D. He saw his full reflection in a plate glass for the first time.

_____ 10. Which of the following characters is **not** in the novel?

- A. Sister Ann
- B. a young boy
- C. Mama
- D. Grandpa