

*Where the Red Fern Grows*  
Chapters V, VI, VII

**BEFORE READING**

Part I: 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. On arriving at the depot, my nerve failed me.

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2. They would waddle up to the front of the cave, look at the fire, and come scampering back to roll and play in the soft leaves.

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3. With the hampering help of my sisters, I made the little doghouse.

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4. Now that I had the pups another obstacle had cropped up.

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5. It was no use. I just couldn't catch the wiley coons.

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6. In desperation, I went to my grandfather. He smiled as he listened to my tale of woe.

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7. "You know," he said, "a coon has more than one peculiarity about him."

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8. "My goodness," Mama said, "you wouldn't think anything so small would be so vicious."

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9. Sometimes he would come out of the water by catching the dangling limbs or a leaning birch and climbing up, never touching the bank.

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

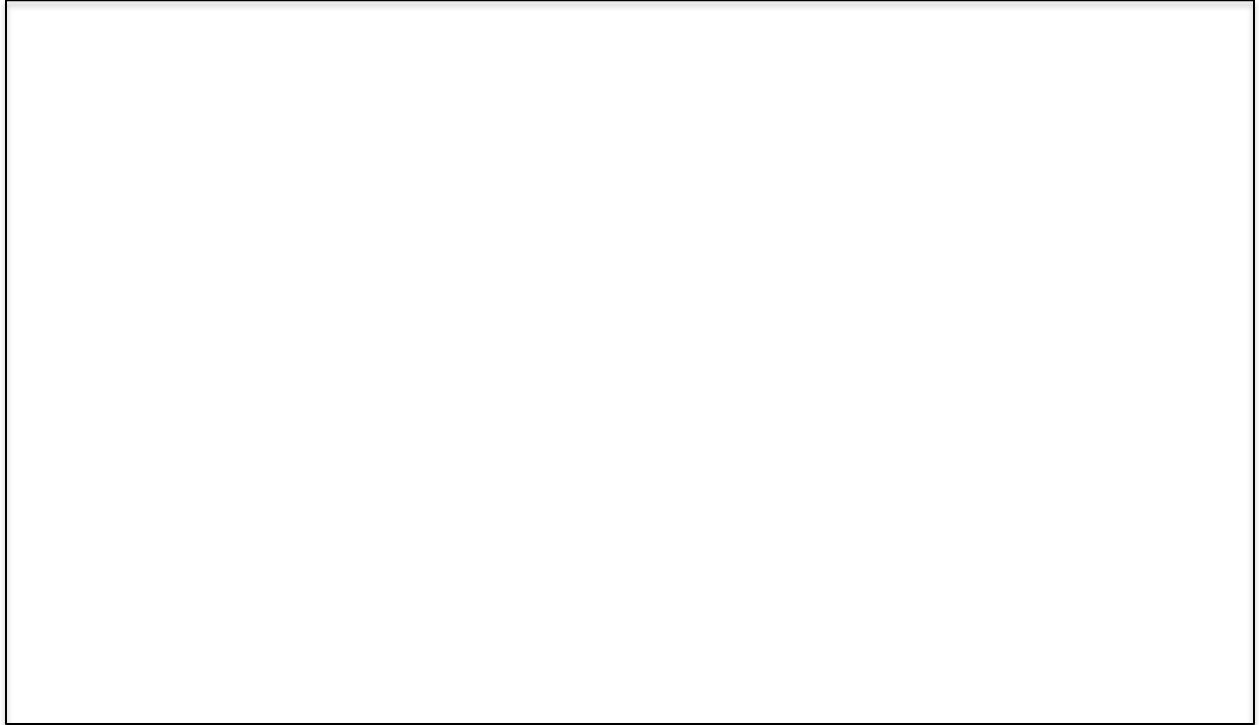
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|----------------------|---|
| _____ 1. depot       | A. cunning or trickery                              |
| _____ 2. waddle      | B. marked by an aggressive disposition; savage      |
| _____ 3. hampering   | C. to walk with short steps that tilt the body      |
| _____ 4. obstacle    | D. a railroad or bus station                        |
| _____ 5. wiley       | E. hanging loosely or swinging                      |
| _____ 6. woe         | F. a notable or distinctive feature/ characteristic |
| _____ 7. peculiarity | G. deep distress or misery                          |
| _____ 8. vicious     | H. preventing free movement or action               |
| _____ 9. dangling    | I. something that opposes or holds up progress      |

**DURING READING:** As you read chapter 5-7, complete the graphic organizer using details from the text.

**Chapters 5-7** – Provide **text-based details** to explain each character, event, or setting.

depot (1 pt.)	1.  2. Train station with a friendly Stationmaster
Gunny sack (1 pt.)	1. Sack Billy brought to Tahlequah to bring his pups home in  2.
Freckle-face (1 pt.)	1.  2. He pulled one of the pup's ears.
"wonderful combination" (1 pt.)	1. Billy's description of the 2 pups  2.
"he bawled his challenge to the devil cat" (2 pts.)	1. A mountain lion came by their camp and threatened Billy and the dogs.  2.  3.
A large heart carved in the bark of a sycamore tree (1 pt.)	1. The heart had the names Dan and Ann carved in it.  2.
bright shiny tin (2 pts.)	1. Billy cut a shiny tin up into small circles  2.  3.
"Did that coon bite you?" (1 pt.)	1.  2. The coon had scratched Old Dan's nose and cut it open
"I did everything with that <u>hide</u> a coon would do." (1 pt.)	1. He dragged the trail, had the dogs pick up scent and follow it  2.

**VISUALIZE**– Good readers visualize as they read. Select **one scene** from your reading that you can easily visualize and sketch it below. Make sure you use details from the reading and that you color your sketch.



## 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. The boy's first name was Billy. What was his last name?

- A. His last name was Colby.
- B. His last name was Cole.
- C. His last name was Collins.
- D. His last name was Colman.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. What did Billy do when he first held his puppies?

- A. He began crying when he first held the puppies.
- B. He brushed their coats with his own hairbrush.
- C. He checked to make sure they were not deformed.
- D. He kissed each of them on the nose.

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. What did the town children do when they saw Billy walking along with his puppies?

- A. They admired the puppies and asked to pet them.
- B. They made fun of him and then began beating and kicking him.
- C. They called for the marshal to run Billy out of town.
- D. They ignored him completely, saying hillbillies were not worth noticing.

\_\_\_\_\_4. Which of the following happened while Billy and the puppies were camping on their return from town?

- A. There was a rattlesnake in their cave. The girl dog pounced on it and killed it.
- B. A group of boys from town followed them and harassed them. They took refuge in a cave. The boys were starting to roll a stone across the entrance when the marshal came and took them all back to town.
- C. They heard the scream of a mountain lion. Billy built up the fire to keep it away. The boy dog went to the mouth of the cave and bawled at it.
- D. They came across a cave where an old Cherokee Indian lived. He invited them in, fed them, and told them stories until they fell asleep.

\_\_\_\_\_5. True or False: Billy saw the names "Dan" and "Ann" carved in a tree. Then he named the puppies "Old Dan" and "Little Ann."

- A. True
- B. False

\_\_\_\_\_6. True or False: Billy's parents were furious when he got home. They said he had to send the dogs back and give them the money.

- A. True
- B. False

\_\_\_\_\_7. What did Billy's parents tell him they wanted to do someday, and why?

- A. They said they wanted him to take over the farm in about ten years. They said it was time for him to start learning the business from his father.
- B. They said they wanted to own more land. They wanted him to keep doing odd jobs and also start to hunt for furs so he could contribute his money to their plan.
- C. They said they wanted him to be a doctor. They planned to send him to boarding school in Oklahoma City and then to the medical school there.
- D. They said they wanted to move to town to give their children a better education and enable them to meet people.

\_\_\_\_\_8. What was the next item that Billy needed, and why did he need it?

- A. He needed leather to make collars for the dogs.
- B. He needed a coonskin to train his dogs.
- C. He needed a rifle to kill the coons when he took the dogs hunting.
- D. He needed a hunting license so he could hunt legally.

\_\_\_\_\_9. What did Billy do when he needed advice about hunting coons?

- A. He talked to his father.
- B. He talked to a neighbor.
- C. He talked to his grandfather.
- D. He wrote to the kennel in Kentucky where he had bought the dogs.

\_\_\_\_\_10. What did Billy say about his communication with his dogs?

- A. He said they could have heart-to-heart talks together. His dogs had a language of their own that was easy for him to understand.
- B. He said they were dumb animals who needed to be trained to take orders.
- C. He said Little Ann was able to communicate, but Old Dan wasn't because he was deaf.
- D. He said Little Ann would only communicate with his sisters, and Old Dan would only communicate with him.

### CHARACTER TRAITS & EVIDENCE- Chapters 1-7

Character traits are adjectives that describe a character's personality. When you decide on a character trait, you are making an inference based on your reading.

CHARACTER	TRAIT	CHARACTER'S ACTION THAT DEMONSTRATES THE TRAIT
Billy	1. determined 2. 3.	1. followed his plan to get puppies, stuck with it 2. 3.
Grandpa	1. 2.	1. 2.
Papa	1.	1.
Mama	1.	1.