

ENGLISH IIID
Where The Red Fern Grows
Comprehension Questions

Chapters 1-5

1. What kind of dog was being attacked by the other dogs?
 - a. a big bird dog
 - b. a blue tic hound
 - c. a redbone hound
 - d. a big ugly mutt

2. Why did the man step in and scare off the attaching dogs?
 - a. The dog that was being attacked was his dog.
 - b. The dog that was being attacked reminded him of a dog that had saved his life.
 - c. The man hated big bird dogs.
 - d. The man believed the redbone hound would kill the dogs.

3. Why didn't the man keep the dog?
 - a. The man did not like redbone hounds.
 - b. The man did not know how to take care of a dog.
 - c. The man already had a dog.
 - d. The man believed the redbone hound would lose the will to live and die of a broken heart.

4. Short Answer: (one paragraph) The redbone hound stirred memories in the man. Describe these memories.

5. What dogs did Billy want?
 - a. two blue tic hounds
 - b. two coon hounds
 - c. two collies
 - d. one coon hound

6. Billy's mother cried when Billy persisted in asking for some hounds because she:
 - a. was tired of hearing about the hounds.
 - b. felt bad that they could not afford to buy the hounds for Billy.
 - c. did not want Billy to hunt animals.
 - d. did not want Billy to own hounds.

7. What kind of animal was too smart to be caught with a trap?
 - a. raccoon
 - b. rabbit
 - c. squirrel
 - d. opossum

8. Short Answer (one paragraph): Billy could not sleep at night. Why?

9. What was the greatest treasure Billy found at the fishermen's camp?
- a fishing line
 - a fishing pole
 - a knife
 - a sportsman's magazine
10. What was Billy's plan to buy the puppies?
- borrow the money
 - save the money
 - pray for the money
 - rob a bank
11. What was Billy's bank?
- K.C. Baking Powder jar
 - M.C. Hammer can
 - K.C. Baking Powder can
 - Piggly Wiggly bank
12. How long did it take Billy to save enough money to buy the puppies?
- two months
 - three years
 - twelve months
 - two years
13. Short Answer (one paragraph): Why did Billy's grandfather give him a bag of candy?
14. What was the final price Billy paid for the puppies?
- fifty dollars
 - forty-five dollars
 - forty dollars
 - twenty-five dollars
15. How did Billy feel when he saw the marshal?
- happy
 - angry
 - sad
 - frightened
16. The two old women in town thought Billy was _____.
- cute.
 - wild.
 - dirty.
 - frightened.
17. Short answer (one paragraph): Why did the boys at the school tease Billy?

18. How did Billy plan to get help to carry the puppies?
- the station master
 - with a sack that he bought
 - the marshal
 - the storekeeper
19. What flavor of pop did Billy drink at the general store?
- grape
 - strawberry
 - orange
 - raspberry
20. Where did Billy spend the night on his trip home?
- Robin Mountain
 - Falcon Mountain
 - Sparrow Hawk Mountain
 - Space Mountain

Chapters 6-10

21. What did Billy name his puppies?
- Red and Susie
 - Old Bugle and Little Queenie
 - Old Dan and Little Ann
 - Big Lead and Little Ann
22. What was Billy's father's reaction to the puppies? Billy's father:
- yelled
 - laughed
 - smiled
 - frowned
23. What did Billy buy for his father?
- candy
 - cloth
 - overalls
 - gloves
24. Short Answer (one paragraph): Why didn't Billy like the town?
25. What did Billy need to train his dogs?
- skunk skin
 - collars
 - rabbit skin
 - coonskin

26. What did the coon need to do to escape from the trap designed by grandpa?
- close its paw
 - shake its paw
 - open its paw
 - back its paw out of the trap
27. What was clamped firmly in the coon's paw?
- a nail
 - a piece of tin
 - a piece of food
 - a piece of iron
28. Short Answer (one paragraph): How did Billy teach his dogs to avoid being fooled by the tree-barking trick?
29. What was the first trick pulled by the coon?
- The coon ran up a tree
 - The coon crossed the river
 - The coon ran along a fence top
 - The coon hid in a hollow tree
30. What did Billy jump behind when the coon ran towards him?
- a big oak tree
 - a big pine tree
 - a big rock
 - a big sycamore tree
31. What did Billy's sister think of his plan to cut down the tree? She thought he was:
- brave
 - crazy
 - determined
 - foolish
32. Short answer (one paragraph): Why was Billy determined to cut the tree down by himself?
33. Who designed a plan to keep the coon in the tree?
- grandpa
 - papa
 - mama
 - Billy
34. What did they make to keep the coon in the tree?
- a steel trap
 - a wood trap
 - a scarecrow
 - a tin man

35. Who or what finally knocked down the big sycamore?
- Billy
 - the wind
 - Papa
 - the river
36. Short answer (one paragraph): How did Billy feel after the tree fell down?
37. What did Billy do with the money earned from the coon furs?
- He bought more dogs
 - He turned it over to grandpa
 - He turned it over to mama
 - He turned it over to papa
38. What are whoppers?
- big fish
 - lies
 - raccoons
 - hamburgers
39. Old Dan got trapped in an old _____.
- opossum den
 - fox den
 - raccoon den
 - muskrat den
40. Who got stuck in a tree near the cyclone timber?
- Billy
 - Old Dan
 - Little Ann
 - Papa

Chapters 11-15

41. Billy's grandpa told him to never _____.
- overestimate a river coon
 - underestimate his dogs
 - underestimate a river coon
 - hunt when the ground was frozen
42. Who was trapped in the river?
- Billy
 - Little Ann
 - Old Dan
 - The raccoon

43. What was the strange sound Billy heard?
- the lantern
 - hunters
 - the axe
 - Old Dan
44. Short answer (one paragraph): Why did Billy give thanks to the lantern?
45. What were the names of the Pritchard boys?
- Rainie and Richard
 - Rubin and Rainie
 - Rubin and Richie
 - Huey and Duey
46. The Pritchard boys wanted to bet Billy that his dog could not _____.
- kill the ghost coon.
 - out hunt their blue tic hound.
 - tree the ghost coon.
 - tree their pet coon.
47. Who swung his pole at the ghost coon?
- Billy
 - Rainie
 - Dan
 - Rubin
48. Billy had to admit one thing. The Pritchard boys _____.
- were good hunters.
 - were actually very nice.
 - knew the habits of the ghost coon.
 - were very ugly.
49. Who used to farm the fields around the huge oak tree?
- The Pritchard family
 - Indians
 - Billy's father
 - Apaches
50. Who believed in ghost coons?
- Rubin
 - Billy
 - Rainie
 - Little Anne

51. Why was Rainie paralyzed with fright?
- Old Dan and Little Ann were killing Old Blue
 - The ghost coon had disappeared
 - Rubin was hitting Biully
 - Rubin had fallen on the axe
52. Short answer (one paragraph): What did Billy do to help himself feel better about Rubin's death?
53. Who did grandpa blame for Rubin's death?
- Rainie
 - Rubin
 - Himself
 - Old Dan
54. What was the second thing grandpa talked to Billy about?
- the ghost coon hunt
 - the championship fox hunt
 - the championship skunk hunt
 - the championship coon hunt
55. What was the only thing wrong with Little Ann? She was scared of
- water.
 - guns.
 - fire.
 - raccoons.
56. Short answer: What was grandpa nervous about?
57. What special treat did grandpa bring for the dogs to eat?
- corn-meal mush
 - corned-pork hash
 - Purina dog chow
 - corned-beef hash
58. What did Old Dan do to astonish grandpa?
- He ate both cans of the hash
 - He turned his nose up at the hash
 - He refused to eat until Little Ann got her share
 - He stood up and sang Hey Jude
59. Which dog won the best-looking hound contest?
- Old Dan
 - Little Ann
 - The walker hound
 - Pluto
60. Short answer: Where did Billy want to hunt on the first night and why?

Chapters 16-20

61. Who fell in the river?
- Billy
 - Papa
 - Grandpa
 - The Judge
62. When is it hard to keep a coon in a tree?
- After daybreak
 - Before daybreak
 - After midnight
 - Before midnight
63. How did Little Anne find the last coon?
- She followed his tracks
 - She scented the coon in the air
 - She trailed the coon along the rail fence
 - She used the psychic friend's network
64. Short answer: Where did Billy want to hunt for the finals **and why**?
65. What were Papa and Grandpa worried about?
- the hunt
 - the weather
 - the hounds
 - the judge
66. What happened to Grandpa?
- He broke his ankle
 - He twisted his knee
 - He broke his wrist
 - He twisted his ankle
67. How many coon were in the old box elder snag?
- one
 - two
 - three
 - four
68. Short answer (one paragraph): Why did the judge say, "This beats anything I have ever seen"?
69. Dr. Lathman was one of the best doctors in the state of _____.
- Oklahoma.
 - Texas.
 - Arkansas.
 - California.

70. Who found Billy's dogs?
- Mr. Kyle
 - Dr. Lathman
 - Papa
 - Mr. Benson
71. How much money did Billy win?
- three hundred dollars
 - over two hundred dollars
 - over three hundred dollars
 - two hundred dollars
72. Short answer: What did Billy think his parents were talking about the night after the hunt?
73. Billy thought his dogs had treed a _____.
- raccoon
 - mountain lion
 - bobcat
 - opossum
74. What is the devil cat of the Ozarks?
- bobcat
 - mountain lion
 - wild cat
 - Garfield
75. Who was severely injured in the fight with devil cat?
- Little Ann
 - Billy
 - Papa
 - Old Dan
76. Billy knew his father was a firm believer in _____.
- chance
 - luck
 - fate
 - playing the odds
77. Short answer: How did Billy's dogs help answer his mother's prayers?

78. What was growing between Old Dan's and Little Ann's graves?
- a. a wild bush
 - b. a wild ivy bush
 - c. a fern
 - d. a red fern
79. According to legend, who planted the red fern?
- a. the ghosts of the Indian boy and girl
 - b. an angel
 - c. the good spirits of the woods
 - d. the forest spirit
80. After seeing the red fern Billy _____.
- a. felt better and talked about getting another dog
 - b. didn't hurt anymore
 - c. dug the fern up and placed it near his home
 - d. both a and c