

Summer Reading – Pioneer Valley Christian School 2009

Entering Grade/Course: Grade 6/Reading

Book/Author: *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls

Required to purchase? No. Students may borrow books from Mrs. Merlino before the end of the school year. Otherwise, students may borrow the book from a library or purchase the book so they may be able to underline or take notes in the margins. This book will be available at *Barnes and Noble Booksellers*.

Requirement(s): Students will be required to answer specific questions in written form as they read. Answers must be written clearly and completely on the printed **Grade 6 Summer Reading Questions for *Where the Red Fern Grows*** document and submitted on the first day of school for the 2009-10 school year. See attachment for the document.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated based on the completion and accuracy of their answers. The evaluation will serve as a test grade for the first marking period of Reading 6.

Late enrollees (those with admissions meetings after Wednesday, August 12, 2009)

The book is not required. No grade will be given; no penalty for not reading the book.

Grade 6 Summer Reading
Questions for *Where the Red Fern Grows*

Chapters 1-5

Page 1 of 5

1. The first chapter is an introduction to the story of the narrator's childhood. The following chapters are all a "flashback", the literary term for memory. What was the name of the dog that the narrator took home in the first chapter?

2. What is Billy's last name?

3. How old was Billy when he was infected with puppy love?

4. What type of dog did the narrator want?

5. What did the fishermen leave behind that Billy found?

6. How long did Billy save up his money before he earned the \$50 to buy the dogs?

7. Billy could not understand the townspeople. If they were not staring at a fellow, they were _____.

8. Who broke up the fight between Billy and the boys from town?

9. What did Billy drink at the general store for the first time? Who gave it to him? How did this person feel about Billy? How do you know he felt that way?

10. How did Billy get the puppies back to his house?

11. What was the noise that Billy heard while spending the night in the cave?

12. What was the first thing that the narrator caught in his trap?

Chapters 6-10

1. What did Billy name his two dogs? Where did he get the idea for these names?
2. According to Grandpa, where was there a fad of wearing coonskin coats?
3. When was fur season?
4. Which day of the week was “coon hunters” day?
5. For what did Billy need a coonskin?
6. What words did Grandpa not want to hear Billy say?
7. What reason did Papa give Billy for why he had not yet caught a raccoon?
8. How many raccoon traps did Billy build?
9. When Billy was chopping down the sycamore tree, what started happening that almost made him give up again?
10. What did Grandpa help Billy make to keep the raccoon in the tree?
11. What aided Billy in his attempt to cut down the giant sycamore?
12. Which of the dogs was the first to jump in the river and swim across?
13. Billy thought that Old Dan had drowned, but he was really stuck inside of a _____.
14. What did Mama make out of Billy’s first coon hide?
15. In complete sentences, explain what Papa meant when he said in chapter six, “There’s more to an education than just reading and writing.”

Chapters 11-15

1. What happened to Little Ann when she went hunting after the blizzard?
2. What did Billy use to create a hook to grab Little Ann's collar?
3. Who was at Grandpa's store when Billy went to get some corn ground?
4. How much money did Billy bet that his hounds could tree the ghost raccoon?
5. What animal appeared while Old Dan and Little Ann were trying to catch the ghost raccoon?
6. In what type of tree did the dogs corner the ghost raccoon?
7. Where was the ghost raccoon actually hiding?
8. What did Rubin fall on when he tripped?
9. What was the headline of the newspaper that Grandpa showed Billy?
10. What did Billy say was wrong with Little Ann?
11. How were the men and the dogs going to get to the hunt?
12. What did the winner of the hunt receive?

Chapters 16-20

1. What did Billy hear that he thought was bad luck?
2. Why didn't Old Dan start eating the food that Billy put out in front of him?
3. What was the first contest at the coon hunt?
4. What did Billy receive for the first contest victory?
5. Which night did Billy draw for the first round of coon hunting?
6. How many coons did Old Dan and Little Ann kill in the first round?
7. What happened to Grandpa?
8. What were Old Dan and Little Ann doing when the group of hunters found them?
9. What type of precipitation was coming down during the final round of hunting?
10. How much money did Billy win from the hunter's pool?
11. What animal was the devil cat of the Ozarks?

Stop here and finish the book before answering the last five questions on page 5 of 5.

Chapters 16-20 (continued)

12. What did Billy use to stop Old Dan's bleeding?

13. Under what type of tree did Billy bury Old Dan?

14. For what did Little Ann use her last bit of strength before she died?

15. What sprang up between the graves of the two dogs?

16. Use complete sentences to explain the legend this plant represented.
