“Rikki-Tikki-Tavi”

Text Dependent Questions

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| **Text-dependent Questions** | **Evidence-based Answers** |
| Reread the first two paragraphs of the text. Name three things that we know about Rikki-tikki-tavi from the outset of the story. Cite details directly from the text. (Pg. 1) | From the first two paragraphs, we know that Rikki-tikki was a mongoose, he lived in a cantonment in India, he fought some sort of big battle, he has a pink nose and eyes, a long tail, and a war cry “Rikk-tikk-tikki-tikki-tchk!” |
| A cantonment is a military base in India. Based on the language in the first paragraph describing Rikki’s actions, why is it fitting that this story takes place in a cantonment? (Pg.1) |  |
| How does Rikki come to live in the bungalow? In what ways does Rikki exemplify the curiosity of a true mongoose in his first days in the bungalow? Cite three specific examples from the text. (Pg. 2) |  |
| Reread the first paragraph on page 3. How does Rikki know how to behave in the bungalow? What do Rikki’s actions in this paragraph demonstrate about his attitude toward being there? |  |
| What is Rikki’s first impression of the garden? How does this change when he meets Darzee? (Pg. 3) |  |
| When Rikki-tikki asks about Nag, “Darzee and his wife only cowered down in the nest without answering” (p. 3). Based on what you learn about Nag in the next few sentences, why would Darzee and his wife have *cowered*? |  |
| Nag introduces himself to Rikki in the last paragraph on page 3. Read his introduction aloud to a partner. What does Nag want Rikki to know about him and how does his language exaggerate this? |  |
| What do we find out about the inherent relationship between a mongoose and a cobra? What conflict does this establish between Rikki and Nag? (Pg. 3) |  |
| How does the family treat Rikki after he kills Karait? Cite specific examples from the text. Still, why can’t Rikki fully enjoy his triumph? (Pgs. 5-6) |  |
| What warning does Chuchundra issue to Rikki? How does Rikki treat Chuchundra in this section? Point to a specific example (Pg. 6-7) |  |
| Reread the section in which Nag and Nagaina scheme to kill Teddy and his family. What does this conversation reveal about their differences? Who is the true mastermind? (Pgs. 7) |  |
| Reread the description of the fight between Nag and Rikki (first paragraphs on pg. 9). What do you notice about the length of the sentences in this description? Does this contribute to the feeling of this section? | The sentences describing the fight scene are quite long and include lots of small descriptive phrases. For example, “Then he was battered to and fro as a rat is shaken by a dog—to and fro on the floor, up and down, and round in great circles; but his eyes were red, and he held on as the body cart-whipped over the floor, upsetting the tin dipper and the soap dish and the flesh brush, and banged against the tin side of the bath.” These longs sentences create a sense of drive and momentum, and allow the reader to feel the intensity and rhythm of the fight. |
| What does Rikki call Darzee at the start of the new section on page 10? Why is he so frustrated with Darzee at this point? | Rikki calls Darzee a “…stupid tuft of feathers.” He is frustrated that Darzee is singing when he is still facing the wrath of Nagaina. “You’re safe enough in your nest there, but it’s war for me down here,” Rikki claims. |
| On page 12, Rikki demands of Nagaina, “What price for a young snake’s egg? For a young cobra? For a young king cobra? For the last—the very last of the brood?” What point is Rikki making to Nagaina? How do these four questions **build** to emphasize his point? |  |
| Darzee’s wife helps Rikki defeat Nagaina in two ways. What are these two ways? Why is Darzee’s wife wiser than Darzee? (Pgs. 12-13) | First, Darzee’s wife pretends she has a broken wing and lets Nagaina chase her away while Rikki destroys her eggs. Then, in Rikki’s final chase of Nagaina, Darzee’s wife flaps her wings about Nagaina’s head, distracting her for just long enough to allow Rikki to catch up to her. Darzee’s wife is smarter than Darzee because she contributes to Rikki’s battle, while Darzee just sits around and sings about it. Rikki-tikki says Darzee “…doesn’t know how to do the right thing at the right time.” Darzee’s wife does. |
| When Teddy’s parents wake Rikki-tikki from his sleep following the battle with Nagaina, what does he say? What does this reveal about how he feels about the battle (Pg. 15) |  |