

Sixth Grade Summer Reading Questions
***Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls**
These are due the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL, August 30.

COMPREHENSION AND RECALL

1. Why does Grandpa say that Billy shouldn't tell his father about the dogs?
2. Why do the names carved in the tree seem perfect to Billy for his pups?
3. Why do Billy's parents think they should move to town?
4. How do the curiosity and the stubbornness of a raccoon enable Billy to trap one?

HIGHER LEVEL THINKING

5. Why is grandpa dumbfounded when Billy brings in \$50?
6. Why doesn't Billy tell his parents he is going to Tahlequah?
7. How is Billy's life different from that of the children in the town?
8. Why do Billy and his father care about whether a raccoon is caught in a sports-manlike way?
9. Character revelation: What does it show about Billy's character when he buys gift for his family?
10. Foreshadowing: Who is the man in the first chapter? Why does the author start the story that way?

COMPREHENSION AND RECALL

1. Why does Mama worry about Billy?
2. How does Papa's treatment of Billy change?
3. Why doesn't Billy give up when his dogs have a raccoon up the "big tree"?
4. How do the Pritchard boys get Billy to accept their bet?

HIGHER LEVEL THINKING SKILLS

5. Why would a hunter respect raccoons?
6. Why does Grandpa put soap in Billy's pockets?
7. Why does Grandpa lock the store when he goes to the mill?
8. Why doesn't Billy want to kill the ghost coon?
9. Would Rubin have killed Billy's dogs if he hadn't tripped on the ax? Give reasons for your answer.

LITERARY ELEMENTS

10. Narrative suspense: Why doesn't the author tell what Billy's father is doing with the money Billy earns?
11. Characterization: What does Billy's treatment of Rubin tell you about Billy?

COMPREHENSION AND RECALL

1. Why are Billy's dogs unusual?
2. How does Big Dan's behavior get Billy and the dogs in trouble?
3. Why does Billy bury Old Dan on the hillside?

HIGHER LEVEL THINKING SKILLS

4. Why do the hunters at the contest treat Billy like an equal?
5. Did Grandpa sign up for the contest for Billy's sake or his own sake?
(Answers will vary; students should give reasons.)
6. How do you know that Billy is a good hunter?
7. Why is Billy so willing to give his cup to his youngest sister?
8. How is Billy helped to understand his dogs' deaths?
9. What is the legend of the red fern?
10. Explain how the title of the book relates to the story. Do you think it is a good title? (Explain your answer.)