

Seventh Grade Summer Reading

Every student will be reading Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls and completing the comprehension questions that are attached. This will be due on August 8, the first day of school. Your answers should be written legibly and in complete sentences. Please be sure you fully answer each question.

In addition to reading Where the Red Fern Grows, you will read one other novel of your choice. You need to be certain that the book is age appropriate and on a middle school reading level. For example, Diary of a Wimpy Kid would not be a good choice. If you have any questions about what books would be appropriate, you may contact Miss Cathy Tiner at ctiner@tjajags.com.

While you are reading the book of your choice, you are going to complete a dialectical journal. You will choose one character from your book and develop a list of **20 character traits** that are shown in the novel. There is a list of sample character traits that you may use, but you are not limited to this list. There is a sample journal attached. Please be sure that your journal is handwritten and it is in complete sentences, written legibly. This will be due on the first day of school (August 8) as well.

Where the Red Fern Grows Comprehension Questions

Chapters 1-7

1. Were you surprised that Billy put so much time and energy into saving money for the two dogs? Why or why not?
2. How are you like Billy? How are you different from Billy?
3. Why do Grandpa and Billy keep the secret of the dogs from Billy's father? What does this say about them?
4. Why, in Billy's opinion, do the names carved in the tree seem perfect for his pups?
5. How do the curiosity and stubbornness typical of raccoons enable Billy to trap one?
6. Why is Grandpa so surprised when Billy brings in his fifty dollars?

7. Once Billy catches the raccoon to be used for training, his father wants him to be sure that all the nails are pulled from the traps and that he catches raccoons only with his dogs. Why is Mr. Coleman concerned? Do you agree or disagree with what he is trying to teach Billy? Explain

Chapters 8-14

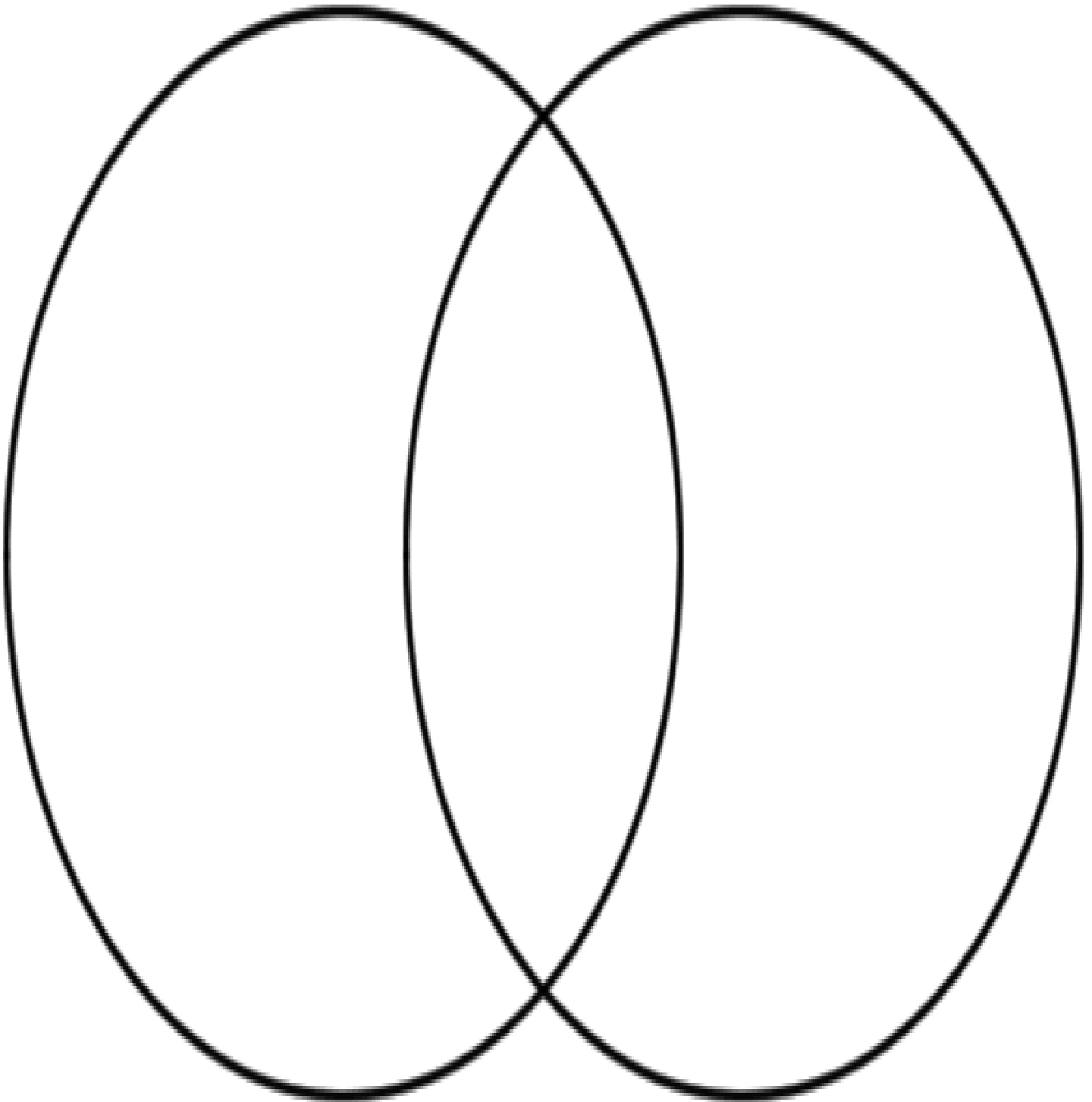
1. How did you feel about Grandpa accepting the Pritchards' bet? Explain the reasons for your feelings.
2. Why does Billy not give up when his dogs have a raccoon up the "big tree"?
3. Why does Billy not want to kill the ghost raccoon?
4. How does Billy react to the fate of Rubin Pritchard? What does he do the day after the ghost coon hunt?

Old Dan and Little Ann make a great team, even though they are very different dogs. Fill in this Venn Diagram with words and phrases that show how the dogs are similar and how they are different. (At least 5 words/phrases per section)

Old Dan

Both

Little Ann



Chapters 15-20

1. Did Little Ann's fate surprise you? Why or why not?
2. In what ways are Billy's dogs unusual?
3. How do the other hunters in the contest treat Billy?
4. Why is Billy willing to give his youngest sister the cup?

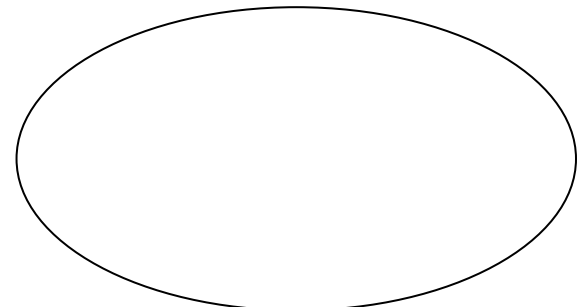
Billy, his family, and his dogs face many life-threatening situations. Use this graphic below to keep track of the problems the characters encountered and the outcomes to those problems.

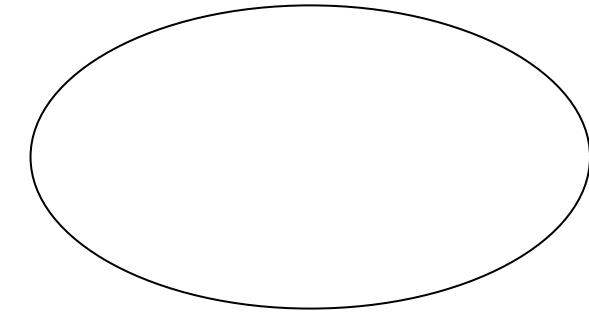
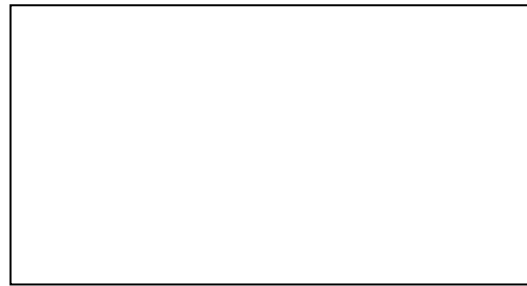
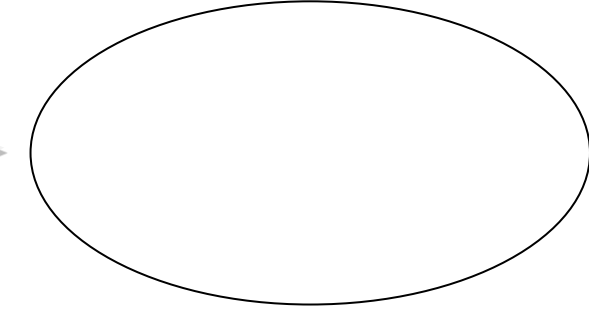
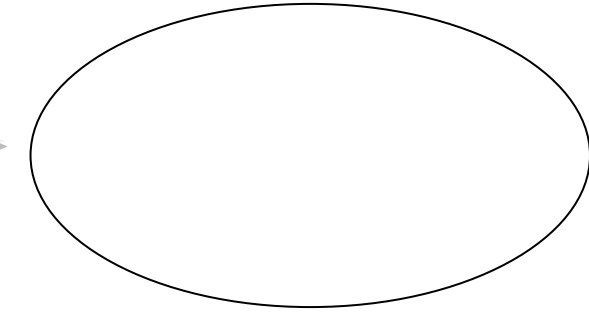
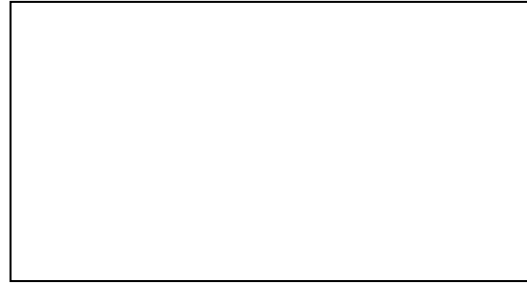
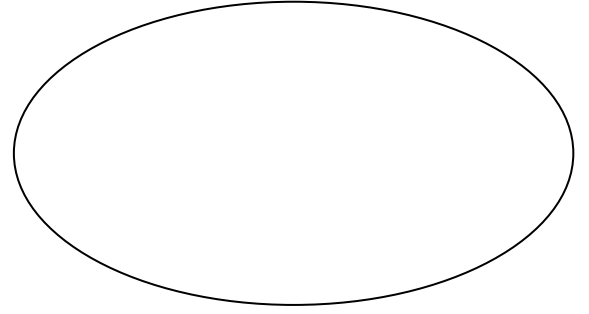
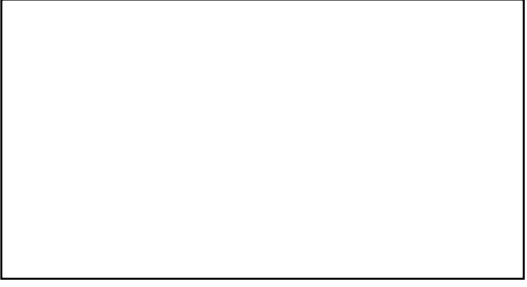
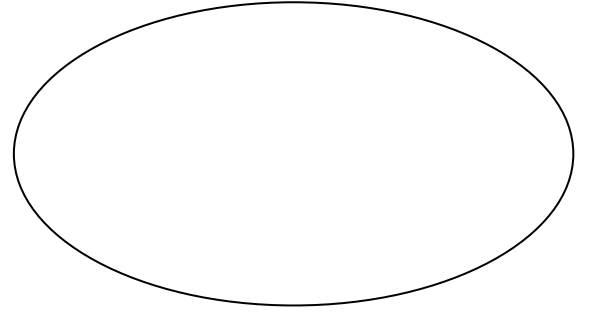
Problems

It's close to daybreak, Billy and his dogs need one more raccoon skin to make it to the championship round.



Outcomes





Sample Character Traits

able	courageous	gentle	mean	sharp
active	cowardly	giving	messy	short
adventurous	cross	glamorous	miserable	shy
affectionate	cruel	gloomy	mysterious	silly
afraid	curious	good	naughty	skillful
alert	dangerous	graceful	nervous	sly
ambitious	daring	grateful	nice	smart
angry	dark	greedy	noisy	sneaky
annoyed	decisive	grouchy	obedient	sorry
anxious	demanding	grumpy	obnoxious	spoiled
apologetic	dependable	guilty	old	stingy
arrogant	depressed	happy	peaceful	strange
attentive	determined	harsh	picky	strict
average	discouraged	hateful	pleasant	stubborn
bad	dishonest	healthy	polite	sweet
blue	disrespectful	helpful	poor	talented
bold	doubtful	honest	popular	tall
bored	dull	hopeful	positive	thankful
bossy	dutiful	hopeless	precise	thoughtful
brainy	eager	humorous	proper	thoughtless
brave	easygoing	ignorant	proud	tired
bright	efficient	imaginative	quick	tolerant
brilliant	embarrassed	impatient	quiet	touchy

busy	encouraging	impolite	rational	trusting
calm	energetic	inconsiderate	reliable	trustworthy
careful	evil	independent	religious	unfriendly
careless	excited	industrious	responsible	unhappy
cautious	expert	innocent	restless	upset
charming	fair	intelligent	rich	useful
cheerful	faithful	jealous	rough	warm
childish	fearless	kindly	rowdy	weak
clever	fierce	lazy	rude	wicked
clumsy	foolish	leader	sad	wise
coarse	fortunate	lively	safe	worried
concerned	foul	lonely	satisfied	wrong
confident	fresh	loving	scared	
confused	friendly	loyal	secretive	
considerate	frustrated	lucky	selfish	
cooperative	funny	mature	serious	

Dialectical Journal

Book Title:

Character:

Text (Page #)	Character Trait	Insight/Reaction/Question/Interpretation
<i>Cite specific examples of challenges faced by a variety of characters. Include the page numbers</i>		<i>Explain how the quote demonstrates the character traits. What does it establish about the character?</i>
"I wanted to follow her down into the darkness. I wanted to see the court of Poseidon. But I looked up at the sunset darkening on the surface. My friends were waiting. We had so little time...! Kicked upward toward the shore." (pg. 273)	Dependable	Percy is clearly being tempted by the possibly once in a lifetime chance to see Poseidon's Kingdom. Most kids would go and take a quick peak. Unlike most kids, Percy's friend can count on him to remember that they had things to do and they needed him to return.
