

“Rikki-tikki-tavi” by Rudyard Kipling

Selection Test A

Critical Reading *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

- ___ 1. What kind of animal is Rikki-tikki-tavi?
- A. a cat
 - B. a muskrat
 - C. a weasel
 - D. a mongoose
- ___ 2. In “Rikki-tikki-tavi,” a flood takes Rikki-tikki from his home to the care of an English family. In what part of the plot does the flood take place?
- A. during the climax
 - B. during the resolution
 - C. during the falling action
 - D. during the exposition
- ___ 3. Based on this quotation and your prior knowledge, what can you predict will happen?
- “No,” said his mother; “let’s take him in and dry him. Perhaps he isn’t really dead.”
- A. Rikki-tikki will soon die.
 - B. Rikki-tikki will probably live.
 - C. The mother will become Rikki-tikki’s only friend.
 - D. Rikki-tikki will fight Nag and Nagaina.
- ___ 4. At the beginning of “Rikki-tikki-tavi,” which characteristic does Rikki-tikki display as soon as he has warmed up?
- A. greed
 - B. bravery
 - C. curiosity
 - D. laziness
- ___ 5. Based on the following passage, what do you think it means when the tail of an animal like Rikki-tikki grows “bottlebrushy”?
- “This is a splendid hunting ground,” [Rikki-tikki] said, and his tail grew bottlebrushy at the thought of it.
- A. The animal is happy and excited.
 - B. The animal is hungry.
 - C. The animal is lost and afraid.
 - D. The animal is alert.

- ___ 6. When Rikki-tikki first comes to the garden, a conflict is introduced. Whom is the conflict between?
- A. Nag and Nagaina
 - B. Rikki-tikki and Nag
 - C. Rikki-tikki and Darzee
 - D. Darzee and Darzee's wife
- ___ 7. Who is Nagaina?
- A. Nag's wife
 - B. Nag's father
 - C. Nag's sister
 - D. Nag's mother
- ___ 8. After Rikki-tikki kills Karait, how does he feel?
- A. confident
 - B. annoyed
 - C. jealous
 - D. defeated
- ___ 9. What prediction can you make based on your prior knowledge and this quotation from "Rikki-tikki-tavi"?
- "Teddy's safer with that little beast than if he had a bloodhound to watch him. If a snake came into the nursery now—"
- A. The snakes are not a threat to Teddy.
 - B. Rikki-tikki will fail to protect Teddy from a snake attack.
 - C. Rikki-tikki will protect Teddy from a snake attack.
 - D. Rikki-tikki will attack Teddy.
- ___ 10. The birds and frogs rejoice and sing, "*Ding-dong-tock!* Nag is dead!" In what part of the plot does this event take place?
- A. during the rising action
 - B. during the falling action
 - C. during the exposition
 - D. during the climax
- ___ 11. Which statement best describes Rikki-tikki's character?
- A. He is cautious and selfish.
 - B. He is fierce and bloodthirsty.
 - C. He is brave and loyal.
 - D. He is loving and shy.

Vocabulary and Grammar

- ___ 12. In which sentence about “Rikki-tikki-tavi” is *immensely* used correctly?
- A. Darzee’s wife takes great pride in her immensely eggs and cares for them.
 - B. Once Teddy’s family gets used to living in the bungalow, they like it immensely.
 - C. The Coppersmith, the town crier of every garden, spreads the word immensely.
 - D. Fearful that Nagaina will turn and strike at him, Rikki-tikki holds on immensely.
- ___ 13. In which sentence about “Rikki-tikki-tavi” is *revived* used correctly?
- A. The garden Rikki-tikki entered revived lime and orange trees.
 - B. Teddy’s father revived Nag by shooting him with his rifle.
 - C. Teddy’s family was revived to know that Nagaina was dead.
 - D. After Rikki-tikki revived, he thought how lucky he was to be alive.
- ___ 14. Which word in this passage is a linking verb?
- Teresa was on the phone when Megan arrived to pick her up.
- A. was
 - B. when
 - C. arrived
 - D. pick
- ___ 15. Which word in this passage from “Rikki-tikki-tavi” is an action verb?
- “Who is Nag?” he said. “I am Nag.”
- A. Who
 - B. is
 - C. said
 - D. am

Essay

16. Did you predict the result of the battle between Rikki-tikki-tavi and Nagaina? In an essay, explain how easy or difficult it is for readers to predict the outcome of “Rikki-tikki-tavi.” Name the events in the story that might help the reader to predict the outcome. Name any events that might make it difficult for the reader to predict the outcome.
17. Consider the five basic plot elements: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. In an essay, describe an event in “Rikki-tikki-tavi” that illustrates each element. Then, explain why you think the plot elements do or do not create a satisfying story.