

Rikki-Tikki-Tavi

Comprehension Questions

1. 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.
2. 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?
3. 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.
4. What is Rikki's first impression of the garden? How does this change when he meets Darzee?
5. When Rikki-tikki asks about Nag, "Darzee and his wife only cowered down in the nest without answering". Based on what you learn about Nag in the next few sentences, why would Darzee and his wife have cowered?
6. What do we find out about the inherent relationship between a mongoose and a cobra? What conflict does this establish between Rikki and Nag?
7. 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?
8. 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?
9. 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?
10. Darzee's wife helps Rikki defeat Nagaina in two ways. What are these two ways? Why is Darzee's wife wiser than Darzee