

Vocabulary Practice

RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI

valiant	gait	revive	fledgling
cunningly	consolation	cower	singe

A. Directions: Write the word from the list that best completes each sentence.

1. A puppy might _____ if it hears an angry voice or loud noise.
2. After they faint, people need to _____ before they can stand up again.
3. A _____ might be a pat on the back or a kind word.
4. Most heroes are _____: they are very brave.
5. Someone who is trying to trick another person needs to act _____ to be successful.
6. A horse with a hurt leg will walk with an irregular _____.
7. A _____ will not fly as well as an adult bird.
8. You can make paper look old if you _____ the edges carefully.

B. Writing Option: Imagine that you are looking out a window and can see what happens in Rikki-tikki's garden. How would you explain what is going on to someone who cannot see out the window? Write two sentences that describe events in the story. Use at least one word from the box in each sentence.

9. _____

10. _____

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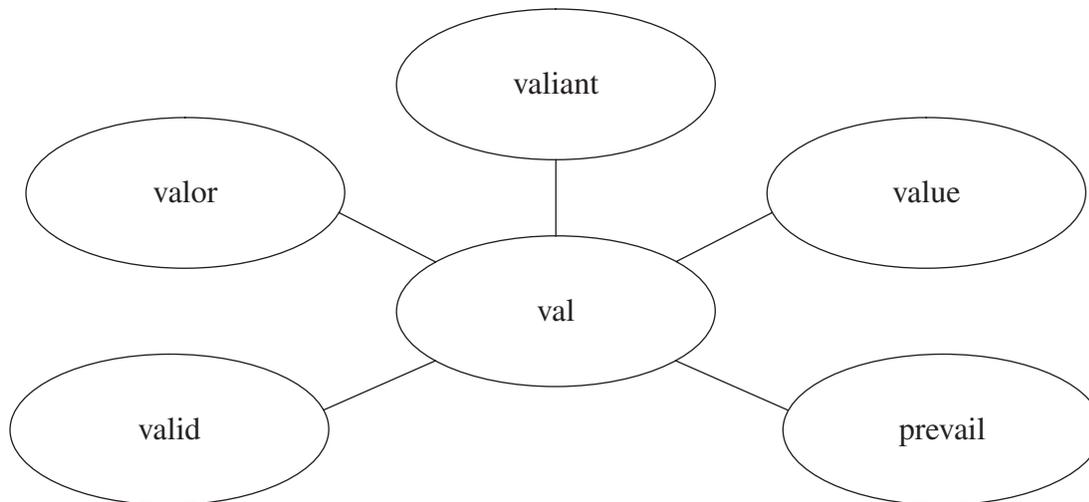
RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI

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Vocabulary Strategy

THE LATIN ROOT *val*

The vocabulary word *valiant* contains the Latin root *val*, which can mean “to be strong.” It can also mean “to be well, to be worthy, or to be able.” This Latin root occurs in a number of English words. To understand the meaning of words with *val*, use context clues and your knowledge of what this root means.



A. Directions: Match each word in the web with its definition.

- a. how much something is worth
 - b. correct
 - c. to prove to be stronger
 - d. strength or courage, especially in battle
 - e. courageous
- 1. valor
 - 2. valiant
 - 3. value
 - 4. valid
 - 5. prevail

VOCABULARY STRATEGY CONTINUED

B. Directions: Choose the word from the web that best completes each sentence.

1. I am sure that the better candidate will _____ in the election.
2. Because of her remarkable _____ in combat, the lieutenant was awarded a medal.
3. If you miss a day of school, you must present a _____ excuse when you return.
4. Do you think playing video games probably makes players _____ or cowardly in real life?

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Reading Check

RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI

Directions: Recall the events from Rudyard Kipling's short story. Then answer the questions in phrases or sentences.

1. Where does Rikki-tikki get his name?

2. What is Teddy's mother afraid Rikki-tikki might do to Teddy?

3. Why is Nag in Teddy's parents' bathroom?

4. Why is Rikki-tikki anxious to learn where Nagaina has hidden her eggs?

5. What happens when Rikki-tikki goes down the rat hole with Nagaina?

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Question Support

LITERARY ANALYSIS

For questions 1–3, see page 89 of the Pupil Edition.

Directions: Answer the questions.

4. Predict Complete the following sentences.

My most accurate prediction was that _____

I made this prediction because _____

My least accurate prediction was that _____

I made this prediction because _____

5. Analyze Suspense Write **W** next to any clues that tell you that Rikki-tikki will beat the snakes. Write **L** before any clues that tell you Rikki-tikki will lose

_____ a. Rikki-tikki does not have a lot of experience fighting snakes.

_____ b. Nag knows that a mongoose in the garden means death for him and his family.

_____ c. Rikki-tikki saves Teddy by killing Karait.

_____ d. Rikki-tikki is afraid that he will not be able to bite and kill Nag.

6. Compare Literary Works Compare “Rikki-tikki-tavi” and “The Last Dog.”

Write an **X** next to any sentences you believe are true.

a. Both stories focus on the relationship between animals and humans.

b. Both stories feature a hero who conquers many enemies.

c. In “Rikki-tikki-tavi,” an animal protects humans.

d. In “The Last Dog,” a human protects an animal.

e. In both stories, animals are more intelligent than humans.

7. Make Judgments Write an **X** next to the statement that describes your opinion of this story.

_____ a. “Rikki-tikki-tavi” is a great adventure story.

_____ b. “Rikki-tikki-tavi” is not a great adventure story.

Give two reasons that support your opinion. _____
