

**Where the Red Fern Grows****Pre-Reading Ideas and Activities**

1. Using a computer connected to the Internet, go to YouTube.com. In the search bar, type *coonhound*. Find three videos about the coonhound breed or about hunting with coonhounds. When you are finished watching the videos, write a paragraph explaining what you learned about coonhounds from these videos.
2. Throughout history, there have been many instances where animals have helped save the lives of people. Use a computer connected to the Internet to read the following articles. When you are finished, reflect on the stories and decide on the two most extraordinary tales. Write a blog post or newspaper story describing these animals to other people.

<http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/completelist/0,29569,2059858,00.html>

<http://www.kidzworld.com/article/25704-top-5-animal-heroes>

[http://www.nbcnews.com/id/7792445/ns/health-pet\\_health/#.UnqGcl06L0l](http://www.nbcnews.com/id/7792445/ns/health-pet_health/#.UnqGcl06L0l)

[http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2003801166\\_webchihuahua22.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/nationworld/2003801166_webchihuahua22.html)

<http://www.neatorama.com/2007/03/28/dog-saved-owner-with-heimlich-maneuver/#!nN8WN>

<http://www.neatorama.com/2008/09/15/dog-saved-owner-by-calling-911/>

3. Wilson Rawls grew up during the Great Depression. Understanding the Great Depression will give you a better understanding of the time this author lived through and how it affected *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Use a computer connected to the Internet and books to find information about the Great Depression. After you have read extensively, write a journal entry from the perspective of a person your age during the Great Depression. Use details from your readings in your journal entry. Describe in detail what life was like during this time period.
4. Raccoons play an important role in *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Take a piece of paper and fold it into thirds. In the first column write Know, in the second write Want to Find Out, and in the third column write Learned. Begin by listing what you already know about raccoons in the Know column. Then, think of what you want to know about raccoons. List these questions in the Want to Find Out Column. Next, use a computer with Internet access to read the following articles.

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/raccoon/>

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/ce/eeek/critter/mammal/raccoon.htm>

<http://www.farmersalmanac.com/home-garden/2011/04/11/pest-of-the-month-raccoons/>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

After you have read the articles, list what you learned from them in the Learned column. If you still have unanswered questions from the Want to Find Out column, research the answers to these and put what you learn in the Learned column.

5. *Where the Red Fern Grows* centers around a boy and his two dogs. If you have had a pet, write a descriptive essay about that pet and your experiences with it. Give a detailed description of the animal's physical features and personality. Use vivid language to describe any memorable experiences with this animal. If you have never had a pet, you may describe an animal from a movie you have seen or a book that you have read. Pay careful attention to details as you write, show your reader an in-depth picture of what this particular animal was like.
6. *Where the Red Fern Grows* is set in the Ozark Mountains. Do some research, both on the Internet and in books, to find out more about the Ozarks, including where they are located, the climate, the plants and animals native to the Ozarks, the culture of the people who live there, and more. Share your findings with the other students in your class, either by creating a PowerPoint presentation, a large poster, a brochure, a written report, or some other means approved in advance by your teacher. Show pride in your work by making sure it is neat and easy to read, spelling all your words correctly, and using color to make it more attractive to your audience.