

Bookfolio for **Where the Red Fern Grows**

Author: [Wilson Rawls](#)

First Publication Date: 1961

Publisher: Doubleday

ISBN: 0385323301

Recommended for: [Grades 5-8](#)

Classification: Fiction

Genre: [Realistic Fiction](#)

Story Summary: WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS is the story of a special type of childhood, a childhood without any of the modern-day material possessions such as TVs and VCRs. The story is set in the Arkansas mountains during the Great Depression. Billy Colman is the eldest of four children, and the one thing he desires above everything is to own two coon dogs. After saving his money for two hard years, he accumulates the fifty dollars needed to purchase two hound puppies. Billy trains them to be excellent hunters.

The book describes the hunts Billy goes on, the way the dogs behave, and their ultimate effect on the whole family's life. In graphic detail, the countryside of the rugged Ozark Mountains and river bottoms comes alive. Together Billy and his two coon hounds, Old Dan and Little Ann, trudge through the trails and across the rivers until finally Billy tames the raccoons time and time again. When he wins the championship coon hunt, Billy thinks life is perfect, only to learn about tragedy when Old Dan is fatally injured by a mountain lion and Little Ann dies of a broken heart. Billy buries his beloved dogs where the red fern grows.

Read-aloud Recommendation: Chapter VII, pages 55-66

The skills for each activity are identified by the following abbreviations:

R=Reading, W=Writing, S=Speaking, L=Listening, D=Drawing

Where the Red Fern Grows - Independent Activities	Skills
1. A Special Scene (Writing with exciting words)	R , W
2. Two Classics (Comparing two books)	R , S
3. Dear Journal (Writing a journal entry)	S , W
4. Big Dan and Little Ann (Comparing feelings)	S , W
5. The Tahlequah Times (Writing a news article)	W
6. The Life of a Coon (Researching a topic)	D , R , W
Where the Red Fern Grows - Group Activities	Skills
1. Wilson Rawls' Craft (Writing as process)	W
2. Animal Stories (Discussing classic animal stories)	R , S
3. A New Adventure (Collaborating in writing)	S , W
4. Roll up! Roll up! (Advertising an event)	D
5. The Cherokee Indians (Researching a topic)	D , R , W
6. "Let's Talk About..." (Discussing the story)	L , S

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