

Rikki-tikki-tavi Goes Exploring

...and becomes part of a new family



CONNECT Do you have a pet? Would you like to have one? Why? Share with the class.

REFLECT What are the most common pets that people have? Name a few unusual pets.

IMAGINE If you had an unusual pet, which animal would you choose? Draw your unique pet.

BEFORE YOU READ

Joseph Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936) was an English journalist, writer, poet and novelist. He was born in Mumbai, but educated in Britain. He served as the principal of the Mayo College of Art in Lahore, Pakistan, as well as a curator for the Lahore Museum. At 42, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature and was the first English-language writer to get the award. Among his most popular books are *The Jungle Book* (1894), *Kim* (1901) and *The Man Who Would Be King* (1888).

Rikki-tikki-tavi Goes Exploring is a story taken from the book by the same name, *Rikki-tikki-tavi*. The book is about Rikki, a mongoose, adopted by a British family to protect them from two cobras, who have taken residence in their home. As you know, snakes and mongoose do not get along at all and they have been known to have furious fights. Rikki's role from a pesky animal to the protector of the house is a must-read for all.



READ

Rikki-tikki-tavi looked down between Teddy's collar and neck, and **sniffed** at the boy's ear. Then he climbed down to the floor, where he sat rubbing his nose.

'Good gracious,' said Teddy's mother, 'and that's a wild animal! I suppose he's so tame because we've been kind to him.'

'All mongooses are like that,' said the big man who was her husband. 'If Teddy doesn't pick him up by the tail, or try to put him in a cage, he'll run in and out of the house all day long. Let's give him something to eat.'

They gave him a little piece of raw meat and Rikki-tikki-tavi really enjoyed it.

When it was finished, he went out into the **verandah** and sat in the sunshine. He **fluffed** up his fur to make it dry to the roots. Then he felt better.

sniffed: trying to detect a smell, here, the mongoose

verandah: the roofed space that runs along the outside of a building

fluffed: to make something appear fuller and softer



'There are lots of things to **explore** in this house,' he said to himself. 'I shall certainly stay and look around.'

He spent all day roaming about the house. He nearly drowned himself in the bathtubs. He put his nose into the ink bottle on a writing table. He climbed up into the big man's lap to see how writing was done, and burnt his nose on the end of the big man's cigar. At nightfall, he ran into Teddy's **nursery** to watch how kerosene lamps were lit. When Teddy went to bed, Rikki-tikki tavi climbed in too. But he was a **restless companion**. He got up at every noise and went off to find out what made it.

Teddy's mother and father came in to look at their son, and Rikki-tikki-tavi was awake on the pillow.

'I don't like that,' said Teddy's mother. 'He may bite the child.'



'He'll do no such thing,' said the father. 'Teddy is safer with that little beast than if he had a



bloodhound to watch him. If a snake came into the nursery now—' But Teddy's mother would n't think of anything so awful.

She just hoped that the mongoose wouldn't bring any harm to Teddy.

**Brainstorm**

What would your reaction be if you received a wild animal as your pet?

nursery: (here) a room in the house meant for young children



explore: travel through unknown areas to learn more about the place

restless: not able to rest, which is usually related to boredom

companion: a person or animal with whom you spend a lot of time

bloodhound: a breed of dog which has a keen sense of smell

CONSOLIDATE**A1. Fill in the blanks.**

1. Rikki-tikki-tavi enjoyed eating _____.
2. Rikki-tikki-tavi nearly drowned himself in the _____.
3. He climbed on to the big man's lap to see how _____.

A2. Answer these questions.

1. What is Rikki-tikki-tavi doing when you first read about him?
2. Mention some incidents when he gets into trouble at the house.
3. What does Rikki-tikki-tavi do at the end of the day?

A3. Think and answer.

1. Rikki-tikki-tavi is curious about everything. This, sometimes, lands him in trouble. Do you think it is good to be curious? Why?
2. Teddy's father is sure about having Rikki-tikki-tavi as a pet in the house, while his mother is scared that the wild animal might hurt Teddy. How do you decide whether or not something is good or bad for you? What are the things that you consider while making such a decision?



A4. Learn Interesting Things

The story, Rikki-tikki-tavi revolves around a curious mongoose. The people or animals in a story are called **characters**. Characters are of many kinds – some are good, some are bad, while others are funny like Rikki-tikki-tavi.

When you write or study about a character in detail in a story, it is called **Character Analysis**. Here are some points about Rikki-tikki-tavi's character.

character analysis

1. Who is he?
What kind of an animal is he?

4. Funny
Why do you think he's funny? Where are the examples to show he's funny?

Rikki-tikki-tavi

2. Curious
Cite examples from the story to illustrate.

3. Harmless
Is he really harmless? Who is he harmful to? Cite examples from the story to illustrate.

Combine the points and write the answers in an interesting paragraph.

CREATE

B1. Unscramble the words in brackets and fill in the blanks.

1. We spent a very pleasant day _____
(oamirgn) around the town.



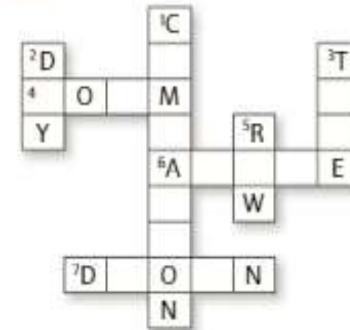
Word World



- The lion is a mighty _____ (saetb).
- The shopkeeper has a _____ (meta) monkey.
- The baby was very _____ (esrtsels) in its cradle.
- My father is _____ (itrwnig) a letter.



B2. Complete the crossword with words from the story. Their meanings have been given as clues.



Down

- friend
- not wet
- trained to live among people
- not cooked

Across

- wander
- not sleeping
- to be completely under water

C1. Verbs tell us what someone is doing. For example,

- Rikki-tikki-tavi **looked** down.
- He **climbed** down to the floor.



Language Ladder IA+ DW G

