

Name: _____

Date: _____

Rikki and Darzee

Then Rikki went out into the garden to see what was to be seen. It was a large garden, only half-cultivated, with bushes as big as summer houses of roses, lime and orange trees, clumps of bamboo and thickets of high grass. Rikki licked his lips. "This is splendid hunting-ground," he said, and his tail grew bottle-brushy at the thought of it, and he scuttled up and down the garden, snuffing here and there till he heard very sorrowful voices in a thorn bush.

It was Darzee, the tailor-bird and his wife. They had made a beautiful nest by pulling two big leaves together and stitching them up the edges with fibres and had filled the hollow with cotton and downy fluff. The nest swayed to and fro, as they sat on the rim and cried. "What is the matter?" asked Rikki.

"We are very miserable," said Darzee. "One of our babies fell out of the nest yesterday and Nag ate him."

"H'm !" said Rikki. "This is very sad – but I am a stranger here. Who is Nag?"

Darzee and his wife cowered down in the nest without answering, for from the thick grass at the foot of the bush there came a low hiss- a horrid cold sound that made Rikki jump back two clear meters. Then inch by inch out of the grass rose up the head and spread hood of Nag, the big cobra and he was five meters long from tongue to tail.

The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling.

Tick the correct answer

1. Rikki licked his lips because

A. he was hungry B. he was thirsty C. he had found splendid hunting ground.

2. Rikki's tail changed as he thought of this it,

A. got more bushy B. more colourful C. he preened them

3. What could Rikki hear as he scuttled up and down the garden

A. the hiss of a snake B. sorrowful voices C. chirping of the birds.

Write the definition of

4. cowered : _____

5. swayed: _____

6. scuttled : _____

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Fill in the blanks

7. They had made a _____ nest by _____.
_____. The nest
_____ as they sat on the rim.

8. There came a low

_____ **that made**
Rikki jump back _____. **Then** _____
_____ **of Nag.**

9. Write a list of facts about the cobra that are in this text.

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