

Name: _____

Date: _____

Tarka fights Deadlock

Between boulders and rocks crusted with shellfish and covered with seaweed, past worm-channelled posts that marked the fairway for fishing boats at high water, the pack hunted the otter. Off each post a gull launched itself, cackling angrily as it looked down at the animals. Tarka reached the sea. He walked slowly into the surge of a wavelet and sank away for the chop of old Harper's jaws, just as Deadlock ran through the pack. Hounds swarm beyond the line of waves, while people stood at the sea-lap and watched the line of waves, while people stood at the sea-lap and watched the huntsman wading to his waist. It was said that the otter was dead-beat and probably floating stiffly in the shallow water. After a few minutes the huntsman shook his head and withdrew the horn from his waistcoat. He filled his lungs and stopped his breath and was tightening his lips for the four long notes of the call-off, when a brown head with hard dark eyes was thrust out of the water a yard from Deadlock. Tarka started into the hound's face and cried "Ic –yang."

The head sank. Swimming under Deadlock, Tarka bit on the loose skin of the flews and pulled the hound's head under the water. Deadlock tried to twist round and crush the otter's skull in his jaws, but he struggled vainly. Bubbles blew out of his mouth. Soon he was choking. The hounds did not know what was happening. Deadlock's hind legs kicked the air weakly. The huntsman waded out and pulled him inshore, but Tarka loosened his bite only when he needed new air in his lungs.

Tarka the Otter by Henry Williamson

Read the text and answer the questions

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1. Name 3 examples of the physical appearance of the shore.

2. What made the gulls angry ?

3. Why did the huntsman shake his head ?

4. What word in the text do you think means "navigable channel"?

5. What word in the text do you think means "The hanging lips of a bloodhound"?

6. Who or what do you think Deadlock is ? Why ?

7. Which character is your favourite and why ?

8. Write down three adjectives to describe Tarka's character.

9. Has the author used any grammar or figurative language to add to the story?

10. How would you feel if you were there watching this fight ?

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11. Write your own questions for the teacher to answer. Use the cards.

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