

A Wayne Scott • *LifeHouse Theater-On-The-Air* Production

Rikki-Tikki-Tavi

An Original Adaptation by
Cathy Flores

Based on the story from "The Jungle Book" by Rudyard Kipling

Curriculum Guide

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LIFE HIGHLIGHTS – RUDYARD KIPLING

1865 Joseph Rudyard Kipling born in Bombay, India.

1871 Kipling and his sister are taken to England and live there for six years.

1877 Kipling became a pupil at the United Services College.

1881 Kipling began work as assistant editor on a local English language newspaper for the British in northern India.

1888 A series of short stories are published in six paperback volumes.

1889 Kipling left India to become a roving correspondent.

1890 Kipling became so famous that his work was the subject of an editorial in “The Times.”

1891 “Life's Handicap,” short stories from his Indian years, is published.

1892 In January, Kipling marries and travels around the world. Daughter Josephine born in December and Kipling began writing for children.

1893 “Many Inventions,” a collection of stories, is written, including the first story about Mowgli, the most important character in The Jungle Book.

1894 “The Jungle Book” is published.

1895 “The Second Jungle Book” published.

1899 Daughter Josephine died of pneumonia

1907 Kipling is awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

1936 Kipling dies on January 18.

1940 Mrs Kipling dies, bequeathing their home at Bateman's to the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest.

RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI - CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What country does “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” take place in?
2. What was Uday bitten by?
3. What kind of animal is Rikki-Tikki-Tavi?
4. Why did Rikki’s eyes turn red?
5. Who are Nag and Nagaina?
6. Why does Nagaina want to kill the humans?
7. What is “bangers and mash?”
8. Why does Darzee pretend to have a broken wing?
9. What does Rikki use to distract Nagaina before she can attack Teddy?
10. Where does Rikki’s final battle with Nagaina take place?
11. Why did Pastor Theodore tell the story of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi?

RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI - CONTENT AND REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What country does “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” take place in?
A: India
2. What was Uday bitten by?
A: A cobra
3. What kind of animal is Rikki-Tikki-Tavi?
A: Mongoose
4. Why did Rikki’s eyes turn red?
A: The eyes of a mongoose turn red when they are angry or upset. Rikki’s eyes turned red because he saw a snake.
5. Who are Nag and Nagaina?
A: Two cobras who live in the garden.
6. Why does Nagaina want to kill the humans?
A: So that she and Nag can be the Queen and King of the garden and so their children will have room in the garden to grow.
7. What is “bangers and mash?”
A: A traditional English breakfast, made of mashed potatoes and sausage.
8. Why does Darzee pretend to have a broken wing?
A: To distract Nagaina, while Rikki destroys her eggs.
9. What does Rikki use to distract Nagaina before she can attack Teddy?
A: Rikki uses Nagaina’s last egg.
10. Where does Rikki’s final battle with Nagaina take place?
A: In Nagaina’s snake hole.
11. Why did Pastor Theodore tell the story of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi?
A: To help keep Uday calm, so that the poison would not spread as quickly through his body. He also used the story to teach a lesson about courage and protection.

THEME VERSE

You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. “Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him for he acknowledges my name.”

– Psalm 91: 13-16

FUN FACTS

- “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” comes from a collection of short stories called *The Jungle Book*.
- Kipling was named after Rudyard Lake in England where his parents had met and began their courtship.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

1. What types of animals are featured in this story? What other animals are found in India? Are these animals found in the wild in the United States?

2. What do Rikki’s actions tell about his character? What do your actions tell others about your character?

3. In what ways does Kipling use the writing technique of “personification” to give human qualities to non-human characters? Does it make the story more or less interesting?

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