

# Children's Literature Across the Curriculum Ideas

Created by students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte

**Title:** *Where the Red Fern Grows*.

**Author:** Wilson Rawls

**Publisher/Date:** Doubleday & Company, 1961.

**Grade level:** 5-8

**Summary:** Billy and his two dogs form a strong loving bond while hunting together for raccoons. Victory comes to the three of them, as well as, great sorrow.

## Reading/Writing Connections:

1. Write obituaries for Old Dan and Little Ann.
2. Write Acrostic Poems about friendship.
3. Discuss what Billy had to go through in order to get his pups. Have the children think about something they would really like and have them write about how they can go about getting it.
4. Read other small books about loyalty and friendship.
5. Have children draw a picture of their favorite scene from the book and tell why they chose that particular scene.
6. Watch the movie after the book has been read. Use a Venn diagram to compare the book to the movie.
7. Follow this book with another novel involving loyalty, animals, and humans like *Call of the Wild*, *Old Yeller*, or *White Fang*.

## Vocabulary/ Spelling:

bawling	bewildered	deliberately	domain
eliminated	flailing	mischievous	muskrat
prowled	straining	sycamore	wincing

## Library Connections:

1. Other book written by Wilson Rawls: *Summer of the Monkeys*, 1976.
2. Information on Wilson Rawls can be found in: Holtz, Sally Holmes. *Sixth Book of Junior Authors and Illustrators*, vol. 6, 1989, p.240-242.
3. Students can look up books and magazine articles about the Ozarks by using the card catalog and the Reader's Guide.

## Social Studies Connections:

1. Research and compare the life of mountain folk to the way the children you teach live.
2. Research to find out some of the main events that were going on in the early to middle 1900's.
3. Research and write about other legends that were passed down from the Cherokee culture.
4. Study the Cherokee culture.
5. Research the legend of the Red Fern.

## Math Connections:

1. Calculate the average amount of money that Billy had to save per day in order to buy his pups.
2. Learn about the temperature ranges in the Ozarks. Convert findings from Fahrenheit to Celsius.
3. Take a walk outside and find different geometric figures in the environment. For example: A limb connected to the trunk of a tree may form an acute angle.

4. The children can follow a recipe for making sugar cookies. They can use the dough to depict a scene from the book. Once the scene has been decorated and baked, the children can enjoy their creations. The children can use the same cookie recipe to make cookies in the shape of the United States. Sprinkles or icing can be used to mark the Ozarks on the cookies.

**Science Connections:**

1. Conduct an experiment in order to find out what type of soil will produce the healthiest plants.
2. Have the children to research and cook an item from a typical meal that would have been eaten by Billy and his family.
3. Study the plant life and weather in the Ozarks.

**Art/Music Connections:**

1. Study Cherokee art, dances, and music.