



Annotations for Evidence

Before you learn whether you will work for the prosecution or the defense, read the following passages from “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi.” Then, after each one, write R if this evidence helps Rikki-Tikki’s case, or S if it helps the snakes’. Explain each answer in a single sentence.

When reading the passage, consider the character’s “motive”, and how the selection would make the jury feel if it were read out loud in court.

*Motive- (n)- a criminal’s reason for breaking the law
Eg) Auguste’s motive for quitting the theatre was stress.*

What was Rikki’s motive for killing? What was the snakes’? Keep these questions in mind as you read.

- 1) “ This is a splendid hunting ground,” he said, and his tail grew bottle-brushy at the thought of it.
- 2) “One of our babies fell out of the nest yesterday and Nag ate him.”
- 3) “The great god Brahm put his mark upon all our people when the first cobra spread his hood to keep the sun off Brahm as he slept.”
- 4) He knew that all a grown mongoose’s business in life was to fight and eat snakes.
- 5) Nag knew that too, and at the bottom of his cold heart he was afraid... He knew that mongooses in the garden meant death sooner or later for him and his family.
- 6) “You eat eggs. Why should I not eat birds?”
- 7) She had crept up behind him as he was talking to make an end of him. “Wicked, wicked Darzee!” said Nag, lashing up high as he could reach toward the nest in the thornbush; but Darzee had built it out of reach of snakes.

- 8) But just as Teddy was stooping, something flinched a little in the dust and a tiny voice said: ‘ **Be careful.** I am death! It was Karait, the dusty brown snakeling... and his bite is as dangerous as the cobra’s, but he is so small that nobody thinks of him, and so he does more harm to people.
- 9) ...and then Teddy’s mother picked him up from the dust and hugged him, crying that he had saved Teddy from death, and Teddy’s father said that he was a providence.
- 10) Rikki-Tikki was rather **amused** at all the fuss... Rikki was **thoroughly enjoying himself.**
- 11) “...so you must tell me. Quick, Chuchundra, or I’ll bite you!”
- 12) “But are you sure there is anything to be gained by killing the people?” said Nag.
- 13) “Where there were no people in the bungalow, did we have any mongoose in the garden?”
- 14) “...as soon as our eggs in the melon bed hatch (as they may tomorrow), our children will need room and quiet.”
- 15) “I will kill the big man, and his wife, and the **child**, if I can...”
- 16) “...then the bungalow will be empty, and Rikki-tikki will go.”
- 17) ...for he made sure he would be banged to death, and, for the honor of his family, he preferred to be found with his teeth locked.
- 18) “...it’s the mongoose again, Alice; the little chap has saved *our* lives now.”
- 19) When morning came he was very stiff, but well **pleased** with his doings.

- 20) "Oh you stupid tuft of feathers! If I could get up to your nest, I'd roll all your babies out!" said Rikki-Tikki.
- 21) "You warned Rikki-tikki when I would have killed him. Indeed and truly, you've chosen a bad place to be lame in... What is the use of running away? I am sure to catch you. Little fool, look at me!"
- 22) He bit off the tops of the eggs as fast as he could, taking care to crush the young cobras, and turned over the litter from time to time to see whether he had missed any. At last there were only three eggs left, and Rikki-tikki began to **chuckle** to himself."
- 23) "What price for a snake's egg? For a young cobra? For a young king cobra? For the last- the very last of the brood? The ants are eating all the others down by the melon bed."
- 24) Nagaina spun clear round, forgetting everything for the sake of the one egg.
- 25) "Give me the last of my eggs, and I will go away and never come back," she said, lowering her hood.
- 26) "Yes, you will go away, and you will never come back; for you will go to the rubbish heap with Nag. Fight, widow! The big man has gone for his gun. Fight!"

Now that you have read the passages on the page above, who do you personally think is more at fault for the violence in the garden? Rikki-tikki or the snakes? Explain your answer below in 3-4 sentences. Use examples.