

13) CHAPTER 13**A) Chapter Questions**

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1) What did Tao observe the hunters doing?

Tao observed the hunters pursuing a herd of red deer.

2) What did Tao decide to do, and why?

Tao decided to let Ram help the hunters in the hope of demonstrating Ram's value as a hunting dog.

3) While Tao waited for the right moment, what did he have to do to Ram?

Tao had to hold Ram to prevent him from charging the deer too soon.

4) What happened when Tao let Ram go?

Ram chased the deer but failed to get one, resulting in all the deer escaping.

5) What did Tao conclude as to the cause of failure?

Tao concluded that he let Ram go too soon.

6) How did Volt respond?

Volt called Ram the "ghost of evil" and decided to throw his spear at Ram.

7) What did Tao do to stop Volt?

Tao managed to knock Volt's spear down with his hand before it hit Ram.

8) What did Volt correctly infer from Tao's action?

Volt correctly inferred that the wolf was Tao's hunting companion.

9) Tao explained to Volt that Ram is a good wolf that has been beneficial to the clan. What was Volt's response?

Volt said that Ram's kind has haunted him all his life. He also said that he resolves to kill all wolves.

10) What did Tao decide to do?

Tao decided to call Ram away and escape with Ram from the hunters.

11) What drastic measure did the hunters take to prevent Tao from doubling back?

The hunters started a grass fire.

12) What did Tao decide to do when he got to the river?

Tao decided to chase Ram across the river into the land of the Mountain People, while Tao stayed behind.

B) Characterization Exercises

1) What did we learn about Tao's character in this chapter?

Tao is not always careful in making important decisions. He hastily decided to seize on an opportunity to demonstrate Ram's value without carefully considering the dire consequences of failure. While his intentions were good, his decision was somewhat reckless. When necessary, Tao can act quickly, intelligently, and courageously. For example, when Volt threw his spear, Tao managed to block it before it hit Ram. When the hunters were about to kill Ram, Tao called Ram and together they fled to the Slough. When there was nowhere else to go, Tao wisely decided to chase Ram across the river.

2) What did we learn about Volt's character in this chapter?

Volt's hatred for wolves was so intense that no logical explanation can deter him from his goal of killing all wolves. Once again we observe Volt's beliefs in demons dominating his decisions. Volt was quick to infer that Tao's hunting success was due to the wolf, but unfortunately that knowledge didn't stop him wanting to kill the wolf.

3) What external conflicts, if any, were revealed in this chapter?

Ram got into major conflict with Volt and the hunters after he failed to get a deer, thereby ruining their chances to get a deer. Tao got into major conflict with the hunters when they realize that the wolf is Tao's. (After all, befriending wolves is a major taboo.) The hunters want to kill Ram but Tao wants to save Ram.

4) What internal conflicts, if any, were revealed in this chapter?

Tao must have been in conflict with himself over whether he should let Tao run after the deer.

C) Subtheme Exercises

Certain subthemes can be abstracted from the events of this chapter. Below is a list of them. For each one, describe the particular events from which the subtheme can be abstracted.

1) Seizing on an opportunity.

Observing the hunters pursue a herd of red deer, Tao decided it was an opportunity to demonstrate Ram's value as a hunting dog.

2) Good intentions, bad execution.

Tao wanted to demonstrate Ram's value to the clan, but he ended up having Ram blamed for spoiling the hunt.

3) When the situation looks bleak, get out fast!

Tao realized that if he and Ram hung around, Ram would definitely be killed, so he decided to get Ram away as fast as possible.

D) Plot Summary Paragraph

Summarize the plot of this chapter in about five sentences.

Seeing the hunters pursuing a herd of red deer, Tao decided to demonstrate Ram's value as a hunter. As the hunters approached the unwary herd, Tao released Ram, but Ram missed getting a single deer and all escaped. An angry Volt cursed Ram as a "ghost of evil" and threw his spear at Ram, but Tao blocked it. Despite Tao's pleas and explanations, Volt decided to kill Ram, so Tao and Ram escaped at full speed to the Slough. When it became obvious that they would be caught by the hunters, Tao chased Ram across the river to the land of the Mountain People in order to protect him.

E) Plot Summary Sentence

Summarize the plot of this chapter in one sentence.

Tao sent Ram to help the hunters hunt the deer they were sneaking up on, but Ram caused the deer to escape, so Tao and Ram fled to the river where Tao encouraged Ram to cross alone.

F) Inventing a Chapter Title

Invent a chapter title for this chapter. Make it concise, captivating, and connected to the main event. It needn't be a complete sentence, and normally isn't, but it can be.

Good Intentions, Bad Execution

G) Making Connections

1) Tao saw an opportunity to demonstrate Ram's value and so decided to seize it. Unfortunately, the plan failed, which put Ram's life at risk. One should always be on the alert for opportunities, but one should think carefully about the consequences of failure. What could Tao have done to prove Ram's value without putting Ram's life at risk?

Tao could have told Volt that Ram is a valuable hunting companion, and offer to give a demonstration on the grounds that Ram would not be hurt.

2) Tao had good intentions but the plan failed, making it a very treacherous situation. Tao took a big risk and lost. Describe a situation today—either from personal experience, books, movies, or your imagination—in which someone takes a big risk, loses, and is placed in a negative situation.

{A boy decides to cook dinner for his parents before they get home, and ends up starting the house on fire. A girl decides to have her mother's jewelry polished as a birthday present, but the polisher turns out to be a crook and steals the jewelry.}

3) The popular expression "between a rock and a hard place" applies to Tao. It means that he has two alternatives and both are fraught with risk. Sending Ram across the river risked Ram getting killed by the Mountain People. Not letting him cross meant a certain death by Volt. Tao had no choice but to chase Ram across because there he had a better chance to survive. Describe a situation today—either from personal experience, books, movies, or your imagination—in which someone is caught "between a rock and a hard place."

{Students are chased by wild dogs and are forced to decide whether to jump into the torrent river to escape the dogs or to fight off the dogs. Students are in a burning building and can't decide whether to jump out of the first floor window and risk getting hurt or to wait for the fireman to rescue them and risk getting burned.}