

WHERE THE RED FERN GROWS

By Wilson Rawls

**Story, legend, adventure story,
Idea, surprise
Memory
Sin**

DOGS -- BREEDS

**Redbone hound, bird dog, cur,
“old fellow”**

**Poodles, boxers, town dogs,
Hunting dogs, pack of dogs
“Buddie”**

ANIMAL

Morning dove

PEOPLE

**Indian boy and girl, neighbor
Master
An angel**

ACTIONS

Hear / had heard, holler, shout, yell, scold, whistle

Lose / lost, pay attention, rear

Freeze / had frozen, plant

Die / died / death, grow / grew

Remember, turn (around) started

dart in, form

leave / left, come, to begin with, walk, to head toward

boiled out

feel good, feel sorry, shake / shook

tangle, fall / fell / fallen,

split, bite / bit / bitten, run / ran / run over

move, fight / fought

catch / caught, see / saw / seen

back up, take off

to scald, give / gave / given

live

wade in
scatter
show one's teeth (dog)
coax
lay / laid, stretch
stand out, protrude, showed
to wear down / weary
doubt
punch hole
lace together
scratch
lie
write / wrote / written
awake / awoke / awaken
bring forth / brought forth
give a bath, rubbed
to hurry
buy / bought, eat / ate / eaten
wagging (tail), whine, lick, whimper
trot, shift over, flop, jog, pen up
wave (hand)
disappear
steal / stole / stolen, sell / sold
interrupt, straighten
give up
curl up (dog), rest
quench his thirst, cool his throat
ease the pangs of hunger
caress, forgive / forgave / forgiven
stare , stir up, to try one's luck
drift down (air, wind)
jump up (skin)
strike / struck, unfold

QUALITIES / ADJECTIVES

sacred, unforgettable
astonishing beauty, amazing power
perfect rhythm
unusual, glad, proud, rare
excited, unfortunately, quickly

**(dog) snarling, growling, slashing, twisting
bold / bolder
wide open, scalded cat
big, ugly, swinging coat, soft
fighting fire, thumping
dirty, mud-caked. Drum tight
starved, slick as the rind of an apple
crude, tough leather
scribbly letters, dormant
strange, fresh / new
warm gray eyes
friendly, gratitude, willingly, satisfied
restless, jogging motion, unmistakable marks
drastic, something drastic, all alone
long, rough, rocky
tired, weary, dry, friendly hand
warm, moist, priceless treasure
wonderful love, unselfish devotion
saddest form
dark, quiet atmosphere
MOOD – favorite rocker, warm, comfortable heat**

PLACES

**office, country, residential section
near / nearer, alley, straight toward
to head toward
edge of the sidewalk
sanitation department
down the street
squalling
the ground
town / country
come a long way / had a long way to go
each end, back gate
Ozark Mountains, Missouri
Idaho, Snake River Valley, Teton Mountains
rugged mountains
front porch, woodshed, fire place
road / highway, rain puddles**

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

to be in store for (a person)

“it was in store for me”

quite a few = many

to make up one’s mind

“I caught my breath”

try one’s luck

get off so easy

“let the world know he had been hurt”

fight against such odds

one’s nature

to figure it out

“There I read the story”

on closer inspection

you are more than welcome

“Good-bye!”

to let someone go

the will to live

it makes no difference

to be over = to finish

“His lights would shine in his dog’s world”

(the breeze) had a bite in it

TIME:

to begin with, at first, after all

for a second, for so many years, night,

next day

late in the afternoon, dark, evening

after sun down, final

on and on, mile after mile

morning, boyhood days, half a century

EVENTS

dogfight

form – half moon, circle around

journey, death

fire: crackled, popped

silence

**firelight shadows –
shimmer
dance
gleamed
glistened
golden sheen
sparkled**

OBJECTS

**KC BAKING POWDER can
sticks of wood
match, pipe
cup handles
smooth (slick) surface
piece by piece**

BODY PARTS

**body / bodies
fall over backwards
ear, right ear
shoulder, left shoulder
bone, rear (dog) blood, heart
knees, down on my knees (kneeling)
voice, eyes, head
long red tail, stomach (dog)
coat (dog) skin
bony frame = skeleton
knotty joints, hips, shoulders
paws (dog), pads, fingers
neck, a mind, familiar face
soreness, muscles
tears (eyes) hind quarters, front quarters
throat, whimpering cries (dog)
tongue
Goosepimples**

MATERIALS

**check-line leather, bailing wire, silver / gold
cash (\$)**

MEASURE

inch by inch, quarts, piece by piece

PLANTS

red fern

seeds

hedge, low branches

weeds

FOOD

milk, warm milk, scalded milk

meat

offerings

CLOTHING

coat, collar (dog)

FURNITURE rocker

WEATHER

blizzard

beautiful spring day

rain, snows, desert heat, cool breeze

SUMMARY, CHAPTER 1

In this story –based on a Native American legend—the author, Wilson Rawls, talks about how he saw a redbone hound that reminded him of his boyhood.

Wilson Rawls, while walking on the sidewalk, heard a dog fight. He immediately stopped and tried to scare the dogs away by swinging his coat. He could see that all the city dogs –for example, the boxers, poodles, curs, bird dogs, etc.-- were fighting one redbone hound and that the hound would have to

be picked up by the sanitation department if he could not fend off the attack.

Wilson Rawls talked softly to the dog and earned his trust. He called on the dog: “Come on, boy, I am your friend. Come on now.”

What he saw when the hound came out from under the hedge was an animal that was starved: The hound was bony, his shoulder joints protruded three inches above his frame.

The author took the hound home and fed him some meat and warm milk. He fed the dog until the hound was satisfied.

The author gave the dog a bath and rubbed the soreness from his muscles. The dog fell asleep for a day, the whole night, and almost the next day.

Chapter 2 ----- Pages 7 – 15

PEOPLE

Billy, Old Man Hatfield, hunter
Mama, Papa, first man, Cherokee
10-year-old country boy – Billy
Daniel Boone
Parker boys, farmers, sisters
Santa Claus

ACTIONS

affect, infect, gnaw, mix up, scratch
pour (cold water), to fare no better
hunt, afford, allotted, flowed, stick
had picked, drift (wind, currents) spread, roam, pressed,
examining, lie
sweep away, passed, humped up
waddling along, fishing, taste, notice,

follows me around, begging
offered, overheard this conversation
raise, cutting railroad ties
feed their families, handed me
jumped up and down
showed me how to set
mashing down, took them to bed
started trapping, caught, intend to
bawling, yelling, grunting, yowled
biting his foot, shushed
pinned him to the ground, flew away
running in circles, wiggled, twisted
released, scooted, watch every move
messaging around, investigating, limping
wrapped around (cat)
sniffing around, left home, to pet
gobble down
scoot for the timber
drew / draw back, skin the game
tacked, steal the bait
spring the trigger
turned over the traps, had fallen
help considerably, to be exposed
leave home, to sneak out
whooping, to the town, quit, tried bribing
earned money, kissing, cover, shut out
to bore its way, to ring, miss hearing it
checked me over, looked at, turned back
cooped up, needed sunshine and exercise

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

have it worst than _____
think something over
pour cold water on someone
to give up
right off = immediately
it would grow hair on a crosscut saw
in the whole wide world
to take advantage
“I sure do” / “sure enough”

nine out of ten
from time to time
I could walk as the days passed
same old story
even though it was a great sacrifice
I saw the hurt in his eyes
Someone was squeezing water out of my heart
how hard times were
if things did not get any better
he would give anything
my heart all torn / torned up in little pieces
reindeer and all
how to work = how to operate
cause a commotion
what in the world was going on
yelled their heads off
it was bad enough
he threw a fit
heard such a racket in all my life
It wasn't long
all but tore the barn lot up
after all it was over
I had it all figured out
it was almost more that I could stand
I couldn't stand to see Mama cry
it was no use
sleep was out of the question
"I'd swear (I would swear) you weren't sleeping well"
"Aw"
"I'd (I had) finally grown up to be a man"
it would drive her out of her mind
laughing fit to kill
once in a while
he was going to knock my head off
"I decided I'd (I would) better leave him alone"
In no time at all
"young man peach tree switching"
this opened up all kinds of new wonders
I was right back where I started
this time it was worse

meant what she said
this broke my heart

EMOTIONS

fascinated

grieve, feels as bad as you do, cry
feel pretty good, didn't feel so good
feel sorry for them

to be please, hugged, mad
sticking straight up, dared
all spooked up

refused

laugh, nervous,

growled (cat) way down deep
admire my magnificent trophies

firmly convinced

the newness wore off

pestering

satisfied

I was determined, made me feel all empty inside, nervous wreck,
worried about my health

QUALITIES

unbearable, ordinary, finest, rugged

sparsely settled

Cherokee blood

rich, black and fertile

surrounded

mighty Ozarks

twisting and winding, clear blue waters

cool and shady, studded

beautiful place

thick canebrakers

clean-swept

fair price

as far as I could go

wonderful papa

awful fuss

stout

one loud squall

**nosy kind of cat
slick little trails
craziest cat, too tough,
all long and lean looking
friendly cat, too smart, standing upright
smart old coon
deliberately poked
deep voice, rang loud and clear
frosty night
awake
slowly killing a ten-year-old**

PLACES

**little creek
another room, store, barn, barn lot
under the barn, timber, canebrakers
in neat little rows
smokehouse wall
hollow
big town
farm
hunting country, far back, Cherokee land
vstrip, foothills of the mountains
banks of the Illinois River
northeast Oklahoma, virgin soil
the spot / valley
log house, nestled at the edge of the foothills in the mouth of a
small canyon
grove, behind the house, below our fields
bottom land, river bottoms
mud along the river-banks
clean-swept ground
under the banks
rail fence, corn crib**

PART OF THE BODY

**veins, paws (coons, cats), foot,
lap, tear, head, neck,
nose, nosing, cheeks,
tail {cat}, tail swishing, paws bandaged,**

limping with all four feet
sticking right up, hand, back,
this way and that, tongue
eyeballs, eyes were red and bloodshot
eyelids,
hides, coonskins, muscles
lost weight, thin as a bean pole
wrinkles that bunched up, forehead
inspections

ANIMALS

river coon, ringtail coon
crawfish, frogs, minnows
lizards, rats,
mule, reindeer
Samie, house cat / spitting (spat), squalling
chicken (cackling)
Daisy, milk cow, Sloppy Ann, hog
sitting hen, prize hen
opossums, skunks, rabbits, squirrels
“Mister Ringtail”
wild life, timber wolf (howl)
deep baying of a coon hound
rooster, started crowing at daybreak
last tones of the hound’s voice died away in the daylight hours

PLANTS

huge red oaks, sycamores, birches, box elders, red oak limbs
wild flowers, aromatic scent, red buds, papaws, dogwoods
wet corncobs, tall hollyhocks
sticks

OBJECTS

gun, cold steel, point of a turning plow
game trail, animal track
baby-like tracks of a river coon
switch, “trail look,” sack of candy, steel traps, bucketful, spring,
trigger, forked stick, clothesline, turpentine rags, collection, fur
new dress, boxful of pretty hats
pillows, muzzle,

Chapter 3 Pages 17-24

PEOPLE

a party of fishermen
a careless fisherman
grandfather / grandpa
father / Papa / Pa
fur buyers
sportsmen / sportsman
“son” / young man (‘ mi hijo’)
Old Man Potter

LOCATIONS

fields
riverbanks
across the river
close to the river
the bottoms / bottom (the can)
Shannon Ford
camp ground
kennel
Kentucky
pockets of my overalls
distance ahead
store
doghouse
trash pile
barn
loft / far back
over the hay
under the eaves
kitchen
blackberry patches
destination
behind the counter
over the glasses
outfit

candy counter / horehound

ANIMALS

coon tracks

redbone coon hound

pups

registered

furried things

swamp rabbit

haunches

mother gray squirrel

(tree) bark / (dog, animal) bark

gray shadow squeal

beating the wings

worms / worms (river)

beaver

(I worked as hard as a beaver= simile)

flies, mosquitoes

red mule

OBJECTS

a fish line / forgotten fish pole

knife / greatest treasure

sportsman's magazine

log

leaves (magazine) pages

"For Sale" section

an ad = advertisement

a passage in the Bible

hard bulge

bare feet

all furried things (animals)

limb

burr oak tree

tinkle of a bell (Daisy)

collars

fabulous sum

fortune

a can / bank

K. C. Baking Powder

lid / tight lid
coins
screen-wire trap
bait = yellow corn meal / bread
roast ears (corn)
thorns
huckleberry bushes
bucket
hide = skin
palm of your hand
a straw
lip of the can
STUFF = my wares
set price
pile of coins
pieces of paper
duster = dust / turkey feathers
glasses
handkerchief = hanky

TRANSPORTATION

Maxwell car
wagons
tied up at the hitching rack

ACTIONS

lend / borrow
hoeing corn
camp
snort
chugged
wade across
prowl
discard = throw away
to thumb
memorize
mull over
jam deep
settle over
hop out

scampered away
run errands
scrub
drop
measure
hide / hid / hidden
to bait
tear / tore / torn
tramp
earn
order
add up
heft ? / lift a weight
follow the same routine
offer
to crawl
to trot
whistle
sing / sang / sung
tug
pull
dump
to stare
to nod
glance
stick out
to blow (nose)
notice
curse
dip
skip
hop
repay

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

burned itself down
left a big sore on my heart
the good Lord figured I had hurt enough
to give up all hope
lend a helping hand

names I could not make out
take my breath away
come right from the heart
come to life
melted from sight
the more I planned the more real it became
somehow, some way
worked like a beaver (SIMILE)
I was over the half way mark
my spirits soared
the long hard grind was over
I flew = ran very fast
I felt as big as the tallest mountains in the Ozarks (SIMILE)
his mouth flew open
I was on needles and pins
glancing out of the corner of his eye
that was as near as I ever came to

FEELINGS

festered up
hurting
it was always a pleasure
I felt much better

Love

Adoration

QUALITIES

long, slender, bright, shiny, new-looking
safe

wormed its way

bare hands

raw and red

cheap

heavy

abandoned

soar

slowly by

shadowy eaves

radiant whiteness

soft hay

heart, courage and determination

dumbfounded, loud voice
uneasy, astonishment
faded
friendly-old-grandfather look
friendly old-calloused hand
pretty tough
barefoot
moist eyes
quavering voice
honesty
worried
nickel sack, quarter sack
bulged
finest grandpa

TIME

on one occasion, on that day
over and over, late, the setting sun
berry season, fur season
many was the time
early next morning
time after time

FLAVORS – FOODS (Ch. 2)

quart jar of peaches
old corn bread, onions

peppermint sticks, jawbreakers, horehound, gumdrops

ADVERBS -

Altogether = completely

Harder than ever

Ordinarily

SUMMARY – Chapter III

Billy wanted two redbone coon hound dogs, and he was extremely fortunate to find an abandoned magazine in which there was a “For Sale” section advertising dogs of the same

kind and breed he wanted. Billy found this sportsman's magazine at a campground.

He mulled over a plan to get the pups he wanted. The pups cost \$25.00 each. So he started working to be able to get the dogs. To begin with he had \$0.23 but he needed \$50.00. Since there was no bank in town, he kept his money in a K.C. Baking Powder can

Chapter 4 -- Pages 25-33

People

sisters, Mama, Papa,
Tom Rolland, fellows, mailman,
Jim Hodges

country boy (muscles)

woman folk = women

sheriffs, marshals

storekeeper, two young ladies, two old women, old man

scorekeeper, hillbilly, tin soldier, white-headed woman,

champion

mob

FEELINGS

sense a change, smile, wink, giggle

half-hearted laugh, glare, much to my relief, terrible thought ran
through my mind/head, to be scared, kind, gentle

desperately, determination

scared of the darkness, the more frightened I got, the most
wonderful sight I had ever seen

wincing, raw red scratches

surely the muscle was going to pop right through

surprise

LOCATION

depot, Tahlequah

pretty good ways

brake into the conversation

Tom Rolland's place

river, woods, bottoms, flats

soft folds of a feather bed, smokehouse

small country town

brick building, playground, against the building
flower bed, the hills, direction
our place, the other side of the river, Frisco Railroad, Illinois
River, Dripping Springs country
river bottoms, ridge, hogback, flats, mountains
faint gray streaks, east
stream, outskirts of town, big town, two stories high
wagon yard, at his side,
between the eye, store window,
sun was right, his full reflection
as far as I could, main part of town, residential section
lawn, green carpet (SIMILE)

EVENTS

supper, a haircutting, a cutting
a wreck, walking along in deep thought
my pace was slower

ACTIONS

pumped up, glancing, add up, wrap up
lift to my shoulder
pick out – select
gawked, milling, spurt,
sail through the air
lit \ light / alight
shooting out, land,
gang around, argue/arguing
spying, ease over,
slide / slid
spread out
arms flailing
zoomed, hang / hung suspended
scream, bounce, laughter, holler,
nod, shake
make out an order, fill out the order
_____ in / ride in
interrupted, explode, declared
prowling around,
wonder / wander
steal / stole, intended to,
whipped
snuggled deep in to the feather bag

lay / lie

sneak , crammed, fold, rolled up lengthwise

bare to the right / bore – bare to the left / bore

to scat up / scatted up

blood boiled

aiming / shooting

pass by, hardly glancing at me

breathing a sigh / sight

tucked it back in

IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

to be in high spirits

to catch my eye

the dog market (downhill)

one stump in the way

skinny as a rail

In a flash I made up my mind

As the crow flies

straight through

In a mile–eating trot

I had the wind of a deer

rested a spell

I froze in my tracks

a miracle

seeing the wonders of the world

everything under the sun

my eyes did pop open

looked a little odd

make faces

were hard to catch

my eyes fell on

to make amends

as thick as flies around a sorghum mill **SIMILE**

stand in all its glory

the peak of

OBJECTS

mail buggy

stump

notice, order, bomb

matches

flint rocks

saw briars
bright shiny star
vest
bucket
long, black gun
plate glass, mirror, comb
wagons, teams, buggies,
bolt of beautiful clothes
harnesses, collars, guns, two barrels
overalls, yards of cloth, sack of candy
bundle
mowing machine, blades whirling
teeter-totters
swings
blue pipe / hollow pipe
angle, bell, bean-shooter stalk
hard-packed ground

FOOD

left over corn bread
salt pork, thick slab
boiled eggs, build a small fire
corn tassel
hit by the wind
sorghum – sugar, molasses

COLORS

straw-colored hair
brown as dead sycamore leaves (SIMILE)
saddle brown skin
pokeberry juice red (SIMILE)
scratches in spider web pattern (SIMILE)

“WILD”

mule ears
shut my eyes tightly
gritted my teeth
splattering sound
lay spread-eagle

QUALITIES

stiff
pangs of hunger gnawing at my stomach
long, shaggy, brushed out, smooth it down

patched overalls

faded, clean, pulled out

friendly looking

goggle-eyed

=====

farther, darker, more scary (comparative)

healthy

TIME: The days dragged by

DRESS: the bib of my overalls

Chapter 5 -- Pages 35 – 46

PEOPLE

station master

Billy Colman

a drunk

storekeepers

leader of the gang

punk

“Jack Dempsey” stance

blacksmith

BODY PARTS

heart began to pound

Adam’s apple

scratchy little foot (pup)

sore foot

wiggling bodies (pups)

rear (pup)

staring wide-eyed

glaring fight
face burned
words / voice drowned
heart burst
tears came rolling
dirty freckled face – Freckle face, Freck's nose
shock of yellow hair
sunburnt hair
sitting position
wide rugged face
choking voice
barrel-like chest
deep down
needle-sharp teeth (pup)
chest was broad and solid (pup)
velvety skin
muscles knotted, rippled
drop of blood - ooze
broken nail
ear, floppy ears (pup)
painful cry
a sick look
stomach
my back, seat
hand as big as an anvil clamp
deep friendly voice
beady little eyes (pup)
moist tips, little black noses (pup)
knees quit shaking
heart stopped pounding
fuzzy hair
blood froze in my veins
high pitch of the scream shattered the silence

night wore (wear) on
fire died down
chill would come, had crept in
glowing red
body of coals
leaves boiled and stirred

ACTIONS

staggering

rubbed

snort

fool

paint with iodine iodo/yodo

swished

duck my head

tighten my grip

flocked around

fight / fought

bobbed up and down (hair)

skip, jump

stomped

gritted my teeth

swinging

smack

rocking

moaning

grabbing

squeeze out

wrestle

bear / bore

aimed

bending over

croaking

bury

beating

kicking

plant

peek

cocked my ear

eased myself past the office

glanced

walked clear around

leaned against the building

yawning

stretching

to need something bad
on hearing this remark
fly / flew
unlock
tearing
reach
lift
set down on the floor
blinded by the light
blinking
waddling around
nailed to the floor
swallow
kneel / knelt
smother
snickered
craned
raised me
brushing the dust
pet
exclaimed
push
mutter
pulled back
shake hands
undertake a tough job
gather leaves
tumbling
melt away
dragged
stretched out
crawled
scampering
ventured out into darkness
wobbling
attempts
leaping (flames)
yipping
aroused
discard

rang like a blacksmith anvil against the rock walls
entangled
the ear flicked
bawled his challenge

wiggled, twist
scented
whooping
stalk

CLOTHING

cap – no top on it
a hole in his seat of my britches
patches
threadbare spots
expensive-looking
hats, feathers in their hats
cowboy boots

IDIOMS

dragged on
a good supply
while making camp
trying to catch a scent
the more I thought about anything harming them, the madder I
got
in the wee hours of the morning
a #12 boot
an outraged look over the marshal's face
"There is not a one (anyone) in that bunch with that kind of grit."
(courage, determination)
my dark world had brightened up again
to be afoot
wave your hand, wave back
night overtook me
worried with it (playing, busy)
puppy though he was = although he was a puppy
the runt of the litter
what she lacked in power she made up in brains
he came tearing back
my nerve failed me
we need one (rain) bad up where I come from

a ways
my heart jumped clear up in my throat
as the nails gave way
wood splintered
the whiteness
the chickens were coming home to roost
worked their heads through the hole
was showing through
jealous
box and all
black and ugly
handed down (clothes)
ground down (bite)
sheer weight and number
OBJECTS
squeaky old pulley on our well when mama drew up a bucket of
water
a twinkle
boxes, barrels, old trunks
rolls of barbed wire
claw hammer
feed bill
two slits
a bottle of pop
sacks became heavier and heavier
timbers
combination
EMOTIONS
muster up
enough courage to go in
to be mean
courage built up
my heart jumped clear up my throat
I thought surely it was going to hop right out
chuckling
my heart started acting like a drunk grasshopper (**SIMILE**)
the reception I got
roar with laughter
gawked
face was red

rhythm by the dog-boy song
hurt like the dickens
loud grunt
pulled me down
twist over / turn over
kids are pretty tough
hesitation
he was bothered (upset, disturbed)
grow warm and comfortable
bold, aggressive
small, timid, delicate, smarter
sure of herself, cautious
sore throbbing
dark, silent, stiff, rigid,
nerves grew tighter and tighter – strain
I was terrified
hellish scream
scare, startle
the tiny hairs on his back were standing on end
courage
vicious hounds
PLACES
depot, office, front, platform
cage
up the river a ways
freight door, back alley
I reached was back in Arkansas /
somewhere , Cherokee Strip
dusty street
general store
Sparrow Hawk Mountain
cave, mouth of the cave, beyond the cave
the trail became tough she would be the one to unravel it
mountainside
ANIMALS
bird – chirping, canary
fine-looking pups
goose feathers (pheasants)
(like) a fox's tail -- **SIMILE**
hoot owls

bullfrog

mountain lion – big cat – devil cat