

## Character Description: Characters from Rikki-Tikki-Tavi

Below are the descriptions of two characters in the short story “Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” by Rudyard Kipling. Read each description and answer the questions below.

### Rikki-Tikki-Tavi

He was a mongoose, rather like a little cat in his fur and his tail, but quite like a weasel in his head and his habits. His eyes and the end of his restless nose were pink; he could scratch himself anywhere he pleased, with any leg, front or back, that he chose to use; he could fluff up his tail till it looked like a bottle-brush, and his war-cry as he scuttled through the long grass, was: “Rikk-tikk-tikki-tikki-tchk!”

### Nag

Then inch by inch out of the grass rose up the head and spread hood of Nag, the big black cobra, and he was five feet long from tongue to tail. When he had lifted one-third of himself clear of the ground, he stayed balancing to and fro exactly as a dandelion-tuft balances in the wind, and he looked at Rikki-tikki with the wicked snake’s eyes that never change their expression, whatever the snake may be thinking of.

### Questions:

1. What kind of animal is Rikki? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What kind of animal is Nag? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is a word from Rikki’s description that tells the reader that Rikki moves around a lot? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is a word from Nag’s description that tells the reader that Nag is scary? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Who do you think is bigger: Rikki or Nag? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Answers: Student’s answers will vary; examples of correct answers:**

### Questions:

1. What kind of animal is Rikki? a mongoose
2. What kind of animal is Nag? a snake or cobra
3. What is a word from Rikki’s description that tells the reader that Rikki moves around a lot? scuttled
4. What is a word from Nag’s description that tells the reader that Nag is scary? wicked
5. Who do you think is bigger: Rikki or Nag? Nag