

# TARZAN OF THE APES

*Published in 1914, Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan of the Apes was the first of a series of very popular novels about a boy raised by apes. In the story Tarzan's English parents had been stranded in a jungle of West Africa. It is there that Tarzan was born. When he was very young both of his parents died. He was adopted by a female ape named Kala who had just lost her own infant. Because he was just a baby when his human parents died, he remembered nothing about his life with them.*

*In the passage below Tarzan, who is now ten years old, has discovered the cabin where he and his human parents lived. Kerchak and Tublat are other apes in the tribe.*

*from Chapter VI*

## JUNGLE BATTLES

Among other things he found a sharp hunting knife, on the keen blade of which he immediately proceeded to cut his finger. Undaunted he continued his experiments, finding that he could hack and hew splinters of wood from the table and chairs with this new toy.

For a long time this amused him, but finally tiring he continued his explorations. In a cupboard filled with books he came across one with brightly colored pictures—it was a child's illustrated alphabet—

A is for Archer  
Who shoots  
with a bow.  
B is for Boy,  
His first name  
is Joe.

The pictures interested him greatly.

There were many apes with faces similar to his own, and further over in the book he found, under "M," some little monkeys such as he saw daily flitting through the trees of his primeval forest. But nowhere was pictured any of his own people; in all the book was none that resembled Kerchak, or Tublat, or Kala.

At first he tried to pick the little figures from the leaves, but he soon saw that they were not real, though

he knew not what they might be, nor had he any words to describe them.

The boats, and trains, and cows and horses were quite meaningless to him, but not quite so baffling as the odd little figures which appeared beneath and between the colored pictures—some strange kind of bug he thought they might be, for many of them had legs though nowhere could he find one with eyes and a mouth. It was his first introduction to the letters of the alphabet, and he was over ten years old.

Of course he had never before seen print, or ever had spoken with any living thing which had the remotest idea that such a thing as a written language existed, nor ever had he seen anyone reading.

So what wonder that the little boy was quite at a loss to guess the meaning of these strange figures.

Near the middle of the book he found his old enemy, Sabor, the lioness, and further on, coiled Histah, the snake.

Oh, it was most engrossing! Never before in all his ten years had he enjoyed anything so much. So absorbed was he that he did not note the approaching dusk, until it was quite upon him and the figures were blurred.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# TARZAN OF THE APES: READING COMPREHENSION

## Part I. Short Answer

Answer each question below.

1. Who are the “many apes with faces similar to his own” that Tarzan sees in the book?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What are the little bugs in the book?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why did the pictures of trains, boats, cows and horses have no meaning to Tarzan?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What was one picture of an animal that Tarzan saw that was familiar to him?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. The passage says, “But nowhere was pictured any of his own people.” Who are Tarzan’s people?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Part II. Order of Events

Place the following actions in the story in the correct order by writing 1 in front of the first thing that happened, 2 in front of the second thing that happened, and so on.

A. \_\_\_\_\_ Tarzan used the knife on the chair and table.

B. \_\_\_\_\_ Tarzan saw little bugs on the page.

C. \_\_\_\_\_ The light faded as evening approached.

D. \_\_\_\_\_ Tarzan cut himself.

E. \_\_\_\_\_ Tarzan saw pictures of apes who looked like him

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# VOCABULARY IN TARZAN OF THE APES

## I. Vocabulary Match

Match each word in Column B with its meaning in Column A.

### Column A

1. \_\_\_\_\_ faintest or slightest
2. \_\_\_\_\_ moving quickly and nimbly
3. \_\_\_\_\_ looked like
4. \_\_\_\_\_ interesting; consuming
5. \_\_\_\_\_ brave or not discouraged
6. \_\_\_\_\_ confusing
7. \_\_\_\_\_ evening or twilight
8. \_\_\_\_\_ cut down
9. \_\_\_\_\_ without understanding
10. \_\_\_\_\_ ancient; in an original state

### Column B

- A. baffling
- B. hew
- C. primeval
- D. remotest
- E. meaningless
- F. engrossing
- G. flitting
- H. dusk
- I. undaunted
- J. resembled

## Part II. Which Meaning?

Below are words from the passage. Each word has at least two meanings; circle the meaning of each word as it is used in the passage.

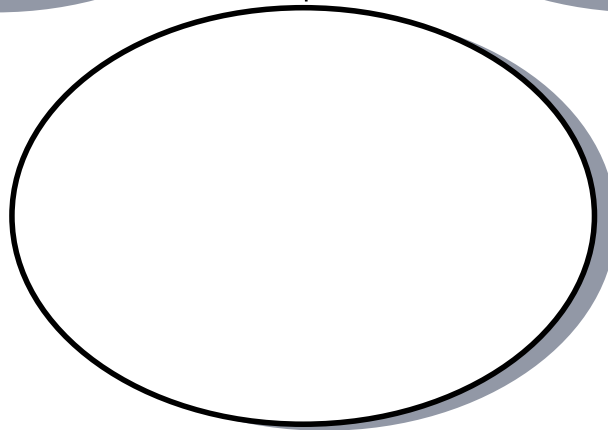
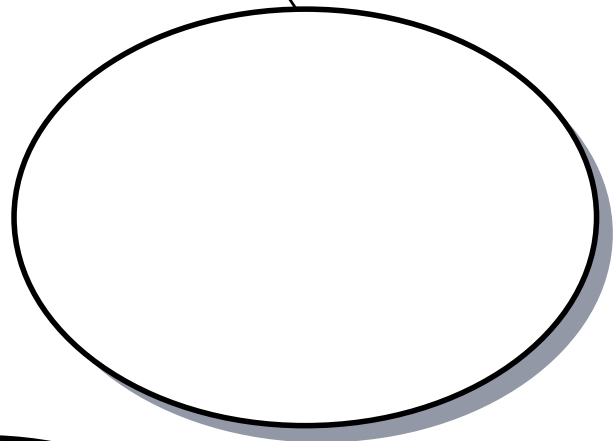
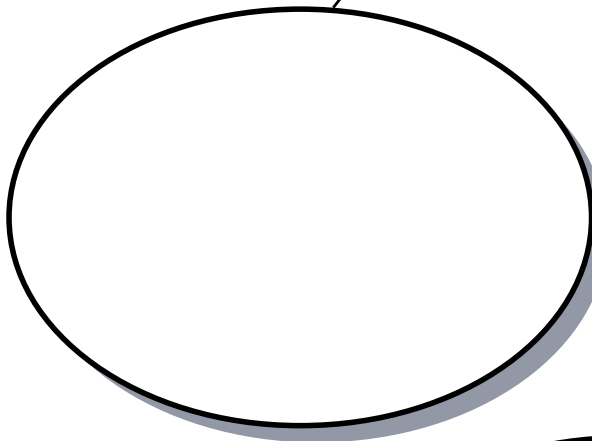
- |             |  |                                   |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. absorbed | A. soaked up, as in liquid with a sponge | B. totally occupied or interested |
| 2. hack     | A. chop or cut                           | B. dry cough                      |
| 3. wonder   | A. surprise                              | B. to be curious                  |
| 4. leaves   | A. green structures on plants            | B. pages in a book                |
| 5. keen     | A. sharp                                 | B. cry or wail                    |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## TARZAN OF THE APES: FIND THE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Below is one of the main ideas of the passage. Write three quotations from the passage that support this main idea.

Even though he couldn't read,  
Tarzan was fascinated with  
the book.



Name:

TARZAN OF THE APES:  
INTERESTING THINGS

In the passage Tarzan discovered a book and a knife which he had never seen before. He was confused and fascinated by what he saw. Write about another human object Tarzan would be interested in. It can be from his time or something modern. How would he react to it? How would he try to use it or work it? Why would he be interested in it?

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[illegible]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# TARZAN OF THE APES WORD SEARCH

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.

J	N	R	F	I	A	J	E	T	W	R	K	D	Y	U
D	J	U	N	G	L	E	R	F	N	R	A	L	N	A
L	I	C	N	H	O	F	O	W	P	L	L	O	B	P
P	M	G	V	D	P	Q	B	H	C	L	A	C	K	E
L	E	F	H	C	G	I	U	T	P	E	N	A	R	M
A	S	W	Q	D	E	N	G	R	O	S	S	I	N	G
R	L	C	Q	K	T	R	Z	Q	F	O	N	F	M	J
Q	O	P	A	L	S	B	K	N	I	F	E	N	B	P
I	L	Z	H	M	O	N	K	E	Y	S	A	B	W	R
P	U	V	Z	A	H	J	A	Y	O	Q	S	T	O	I
D	K	N	Z	E	B	O	O	K	H	E	D	R	Q	M
F	I	O	R	J	K	E	H	E	E	M	P	A	H	E
O	E	B	A	B	L	E	T	T	E	R	S	I	D	V
O	D	U	G	U	O	R	T	A	R	Z	A	N	V	A
L	I	O	N	E	S	S	A	Q	I	M	D	S	R	L

ALPHABET  
APE  
BOOK

BUG  
ENGROSSING  
JUNGLE

KALA  
KNIFE  
LETTERS

LIONESS  
MONKEYS  
PRIMEVAL

SNAKE  
TARZAN  
TRAINS



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **KEY**

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## Part I. Short Answer

Answer each question below.

1. Who are the “many apes with faces similar to his own” that Tarzan sees in the book?

**Student's answers will vary. Example of correct answers:**

**humans**

2. What are the little bugs in the book?

**letters**

3. Why did the pictures of trains, boats, cows and horses have no meaning to Tarzan?

**He had never seen any of those.**

4. What was one picture of an animal that Tarzan saw that was familiar to him?

**a lioness**

5. The passage says, “But nowhere was pictured any of his own people.” Who are Tarzan's people?

**apes**

## Part II. Order of Events

Place the following actions in the story in the correct order by writing 1 in front of the first thing that happened, 2 in front of the second thing that happened, and so on.

A. **2** Tarzan used the knife on the chair and table.

B. **4** Tarzan saw little bugs on the page.

C. **5** The light faded as evening approached.

D. **1** Tarzan cut himself.

E. **3** Tarzan saw pictures of apes who looked like him



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|-------------|--|--|
| 1. absorbed | A. soaked up, as in liquid with a sponge | <u>B. totally occupied or interested</u> |
| 2. hack     | <u>A. chop or cut</u>                    | B. dry cough                             |
| 3. wonder   | <u>A. surprise</u>                       | B. to be curious                         |
| 4. leaves   | A. green structures on plants            | <u>B. pages in a book</u>                |
| 5. keen     | <u>A. sharp</u>                          | B. cry or wail                           |

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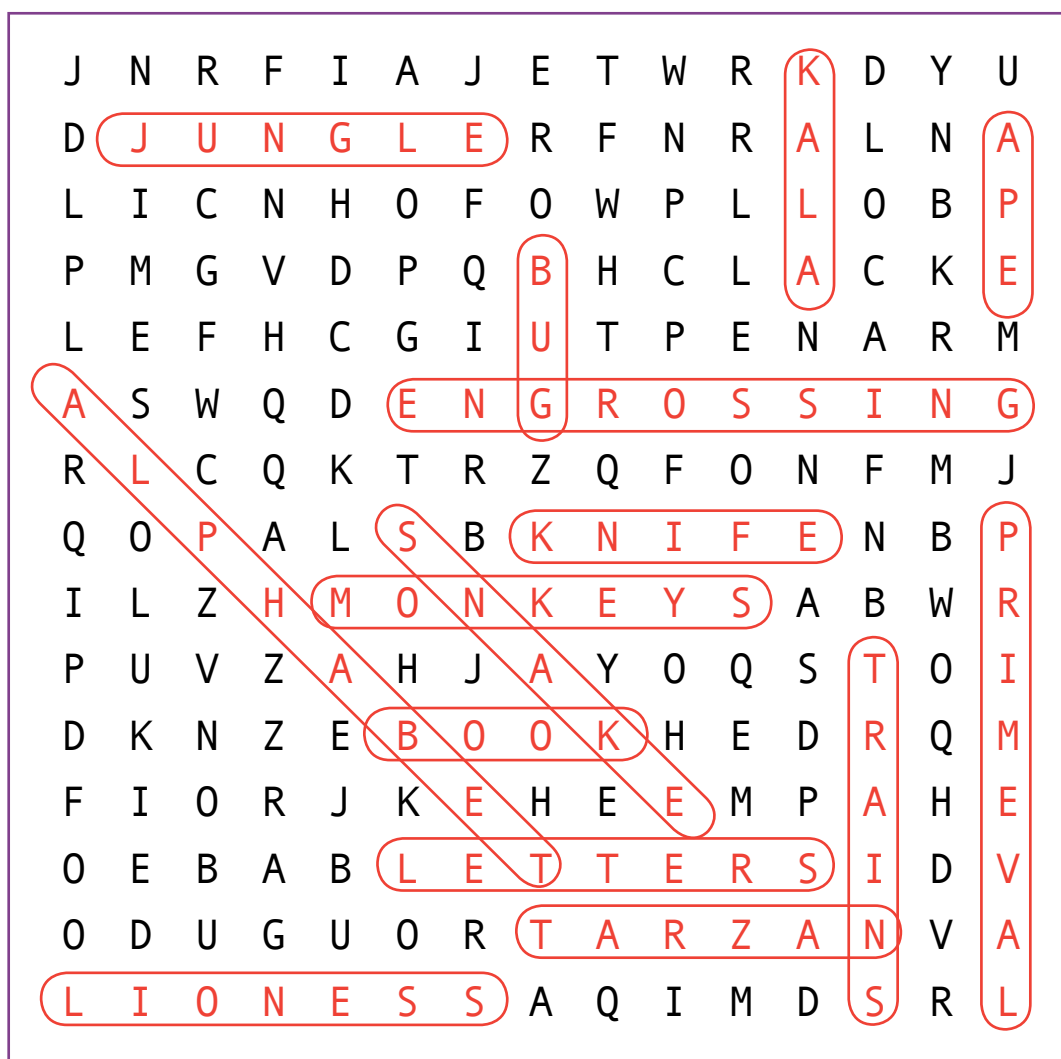
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approaching dusk..."

"Never before in all his  
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anything so much."

## KEY

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