

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Hunting Lessons

Billy Colman's adventures with his two beloved hunting dogs, Old Dan and Little Ann, are filled with excitement, danger, and valuable life lessons. Through every hunt in the dark forests of the Ozark Mountains, Billy learns important qualities like perseverance, teamwork, and love.

One of the biggest lessons Billy learns is the importance of hard work and determination. When he decides he wants two coonhounds, no one hands them to him. Instead, he spends two years saving every penny he can by selling berries and bait. When he finally earns enough money, he walks miles to pick up his dogs himself. This long journey teaches him that dreams take time and effort to achieve.

As Billy begins training Old Dan and Little Ann, he quickly realizes that success does not come easily. The dogs must learn how to track raccoons, work together, and respond to Billy's calls. Hunting requires patience, and Billy sometimes struggles, but he never gives up. Over time, Billy and his dogs grow into an unstoppable team. He learns that true success comes from practice, dedication, and belief in one another.

Billy also learns the power of love and sacrifice. His bond with Old Dan and Little Ann is unbreakable, and they will do anything to protect each other. This becomes clear when a fierce mountain lion attacks. Old Dan fights bravely to defend Billy, and Little Ann refuses to leave her friend's side. The tragic loss of Old Dan is one of the hardest moments Billy has ever faced. However, he realizes that love does not disappear—it remains in the memories and loyalty they shared.

Finally, Billy learns about acceptance and finding meaning in loss. When he sees a red fern growing between the graves of his dogs, he remembers an old legend that says only an angel can plant a red fern. He takes it as a sign that his beloved dogs are at peace. Even though he is heartbroken, Billy understands that life moves forward and that love and sacrifice leave lasting marks on the heart.

Through his time hunting with Old Dan and Little Ann, Billy gains more than just trophies or raccoon pelts. He learns what it means to be strong, loyal, and determined—lessons that will stay with him forever.