Name_________________________________Class________________Date_________

**Vocabulary:** For each word below, you will: A. define it, B. write the sentence the word appears in from the book with its page number, and C. write an original sentence of your own using the word correctly.

1. embankment
   A. 
   B. 
   C. 

2. gouge
   A. 
   B. 
   C. 

3. taboo
   A. 
   B. 
   C. 

4. shaman
   A. 
   B. 
   C. 

5. vault
   A. 
   B. 
   C. 

6. haunches
   A. 
   B. 
   C. 

7. brawny
Comprehension: Answer the following questions in your Reader’s Response Journal. Use complete sentences by including part of the question in your answer.

1. What did Tao do when hunting that made him fall behind?
2. Where did Tao get the ideas for his drawings?
3. Why did Tao's heart pound wildly when he heard a sound in the grass?
4. Why couldn’t Tao become a cave painter, or Chosen One, like Graybeard?
5. What would happen if Graybeard painted images of animals in the Secret Cavern to please the spirits?
6. Why were Garth and Volt angry at Tao for leaving the rabbit in the meadow?
7. What do you think will happen next?
Vocabulary: For each word below, you will: A. define it, B. re-read the sentence from the book using the word (given), and C. write an original sentence of your own using the word correctly.

Chapter Two

1. propped
   A. 
   B. “Tao propped his torch against a stone…”
   C. 

2. cringe
   A. 
   B. "The animal cringed and crept up through the grass."
   C. 

3. watercress
   A. 
   B. "He came to a shallow stream covered with rafts of new watercress."
   C. 

Comprehension: Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use part of the question to begin your answer.

1. What is the main difference between Volt and Kala?
2. Why do you think the slough became a forbidden place?
3. What did Tao eat? Name three things he ate. (Tao ate…)
4. Who did Tao think about and want to draw pictures of? He thought about and wanted to draw…
5. Why was it against the law or taboo in the clan to make an image of a person?
6. Why couldn't the little wolf eat?
7. How did the boy help the wolf?
8. What did Tao dream about? What was the importance of his dream?
9. Where did Tao hear the terrible cry come from?
10. What do you think will happen next?

Chapter Three

Vocabulary: For each word below, you will: A. define it, B. sentence from the book using the word (given), and C. write an original sentence of your own using the word correctly.

1. thicket
A. 
B. “He moved carefully, pushing his way through the brier thickets…”
C. 

2. slough
A. 
B. “There were sandy glades within the Slough where scattered clumps of bunchgrass and bilberry bushes grew.” (yes, there IS such a thing as a bilberry, even though that is not my name!)
C. 

3. tussocks
A. 
B. “It worked in and around the thickets and between the tussocks of grass.”
C. 

4. impudence
A. 
B. “Startled by the boy’s impudence, Volt spat on the ground and grunted.”
C. 

Comprehension: Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use part of the question to begin your answer.

1. Who was sitting on the forest floor?
2. Describe the way that Tao and the wolf worked together to take the eagle owl’s eggs.
3. How did the wolf dog help Tao catch rabbits?
4. Why didn’t Tao want the wolf dog to return to the clan with him?
5. What did Tao give Kala to eat?
6. Why was Volt angry with Tao?
7. What had Tao heard was inside the Big Cave?
8. Who in the clan chose the cave painters?
9. What did Tao want to be? Why did he think it would never happen?
10. What do you think will happen next?

**Vocabulary:** For each word, you will: A. define it, B. re-read the sentence from the book using the word (given), and C. write an original sentence of your own using the word correctly.

**Chapter Four**

1. pelt
   A. 
   B. “She smiled with good strong teeth, strong from chewing on pelts and skins to make them soft.”
   C. 

2. ritual
   A. 
   B. “But I must find out, ... if I am ever to enter the ritual of manhood.”
   C. 

**Comprehension:** Answer in your journal using complete sentences.

1. What did Kala remember about the swamp?
2. Why wouldn't the clan allow its people to go to the swamp?
3. What important question did Tao ask Kala? Why did he ask it?
4. Why wouldn't Kala tell Tao about his father?
5. What did Kala say about his mother?
6. Why was Tao left alone to die?
7. Who saved Tao?
8. What did Tao decide to do after hearing what Kala had to say?
9. What foolish thing followed Tao back into camp?
10. What do you think will happen next?

Chapter Five

**Vocabulary:** A. definition, B. book sentence (given), C. original sentence

1. **bank**
   A.
   B. “The next morning, after he had banked the fires with three other younger boys ....”
   C.

2. **tallow**
   A.
   B. “Kala gave him a bearskin robe and a tallow lamp made from a large cockleshell filled with animal fat and a wick made of peat moss.”
   C.

3. **embers**
   A.
   B. “She wrapped live embers in a handful of wet grass, placed them in a hollow bone and gave them to him for his fire.”
   C.

**Comprehension:** Answer in your journal using complete sentences.

1. Why did the hunters of the clan react so violently to the presence of the wolf dog?
2. Why did the hunters form a circle around their prey?
3. How did Tao finally manage to teach the wolf dog to "go?"
4. How did Tao manage to divert/distract the hunters away from Ram?
5. Name the materials Tao gathered and their uses/purposes.

Chapter Six

**Vocabulary:** A. definition, B. book sentence (given), C. original sentence

1. **torrent**
   A.
B. “... the retreating glaciers send down torrents of cold water to form crystal-clear lakes...”

**Comprehension:** Answer in your journal using complete sentences.

1. Why did Tao avoid telling Volt where he hunted?
2. Why was Tao so frightened by the appearance of the old man?
3. Why do you think Graybeard knew Tao’s name and that he hunted in the Slough?
4. Why is Graybeard in the valley?
Vocabulary: For each word, you will: A. define it, B. re-read the sentence from the book using the word (given), and C. write an original sentence of your own using the word correctly.

1. omen
   A.
   B. "Unless there is some omen or sign, I do not think he will change his mind."
   C.

2. graven
   A.
   B. "With these graven stones I can speak to the spirits of the animals and bring good hunting."
   C.

3. amulet
   A.
   B. "He opened his leather pouch and brought out an ivory amulet and a necklace of bear's teeth and put them around his neck."
   C.

4. spasm
   A.
   B. "The effort produced a spasm of coughs."
   C.

Comprehension: Answer the following questions in complete sentences in your journal.
1. What was the reason for the taboo against wolf dogs? Who made it?
2. What exactly does Graybeard do in his role as shaman?
3. What did Graybeard do when he saw the images that Tao had drawn in the sand? Why?
4. What does Graybeard's advice, "You must learn to live with things you cannot change" mean? What does Tao think of this advice? (over for #5-8)

5. What method does Graybeard use to remind himself how to draw the different animals?

6. How can Graybeard travel from one clan to another without harm?

7. How does Graybeard explain his "magic" to Tao? Give an example.

8. How did Graybeard announce his arrival at the camp and how was he greeted?
**Vocabulary:** For each word, you will: A. define it, B. re-read the sentence from the book using the word (given), and C. write an original sentence of your own using the word correctly.

1. **sentinel**
   A. 
   B. "Together with Ram, he climbed the rocky passes to see the horned ibex and the mountain rams standing sentinel on the snowy peaks."
   C. 
2. **slate**
   A. 
   B. "He took out a broad flat slate that he had brought with him."
   C. 
3. **verdant**
   A. 
   B. "Now he looked across the verdant grassland, warm and bright in the early morning sunlight."
   C. 
4. **succulent**
   A. 
   B. “The mammoths pulled up great trunkfuls of grass, ... to get at the succulent buds and twigs."
   C. 

**Comprehension**

1. Describe Saxon and tell the role did he played in the clan's culture.

2. Why does Graybeard cough and wheeze and seem tired all the time? Why does he spend so much time with Tao?
3. What drawing tips did Graybeard give to Tao?
4. How does Graybeard promise to help Tao?

**Vocabulary:** For each word, you will: A. define it, B. re-read the sentence from the book using the word (given), and C. write an original sentence of your own using the word correctly.

1. plantain
   A. 
   B. "Kala gave him plantain leaves and a poultice made of earth apple to put on his wounds."
   C. 
2. poultice
   A. 
   B. "Kala gave him plantain leaves and a poultice made of earth apple to put on his wounds."
   C. 
3. fare
   A. 
   B. "The people were pleased, for it was not often that they were treated to such tasty fare."
   C. 
4. verdant
   A. 
   B. "Now he looked across the verdant grassland, warm and bright in the early morning sunlight."
   C. 
5. succulent
   A. 
   B. "The mammoths pulled up great trunkfuls of grass, ... to get at the succulent buds and
twigs."

C.

Comprehension. Answer the following questions in complete sentences in your journal.

1. What did the flash of light mean to Tao?
2. What is Graybeard's style of teaching? Does help Tao? How?
3. How did Graybeard create the effect of a whole herd of animals?
4. What did Tao need to gather to learn to paint and mix colors?
5. Has Volt changed his attitude about Tao? Why/why not?
6. What happened when Tao got caught right in the middle of an oncoming herd of mammoths?
7. Describe how Ram saved Tao's life.
Vocabulary: For each word, you will: A. define it, B. re-read the sentence from the book using the word (given), and C. write an original sentence of your own using the word correctly.

1. strides
   A.
   B. "The deer was already strides ahead of him."
   C.
2. pursuers
   A.
   B."Dodging, turning, lurching through the tall grass, boy and wolf barely managed to keep ahead of their pursuers."
   C.
3. canopy
   A.
   B."Then he glanced up into the branches of the willow, with its thick canopy of new green leaves."
   C.
4. rakish
   A.
   B."The massive trunk was growing at a rakish angle and he had little trouble climbing up through the branches."
   C.
5. tunic
   A.
   B."They were dressed in sheepskin tunics, and all of them carried spears."
   C.
6. froth
A.
B. "The dog squirmed and struggled, froth dripping from his mouth as he tried to get free."
C.

Comprehension. Answer the following questions in complete sentences in your journal.

1. Why do you think Tao thought that Volt would accept the wolf dog as a hunting companion? What must have been going through his mind?
2. What did the hunters do to try to capture Ram? What tactics did they use?
3. Why couldn't Tao cross the river? Would Ram be safe on the other side of the river?
4. Why do you think Volt did not say anything to the other hunters when he saw Tao hiding in the tree?
5. Why wouldn't the hunters cross the river?
6. Why do you think Greybeard could understand the Mountain People's language?
7. What deal did Tao make with the Mountain People to save Ram's life? How did Graybeard help him with this solution?
8. Why is Graybeard with the Mountain People?
9. What is Graybeard's plan to have the Valley People accept Tao as their image maker?
**Vocabulary:** For each word, you will: A. define it, (given!) B. re-read the sentence from the book using the word (given), and C. write an original sentence of your own using the word correctly.

1. **stunted**
   A. stopped in its growth or development.
   B. "Tao moved cautiously, edging his way along, hiding behind the clumps of stunted evergreens growing out of the cliff side."
   C.

2. **eerie**
   A. strange and sensational; different in a strange way.
   B. "He had never been beyond this point before and it gave him an eerie feeling to step past the opening."
   C.

3. **abrupt**
   A. sudden; unexpected.
   B.
   C. "Then, at an abrupt turn in the tunnel, Tao's heart jumped."

4. **awe**
   A. great wonder at how something could be or happen.
   B. "He blinked, and for a moment, he looked around in silent awe, unable to believe his eyes."
   C.

5. **tawny**
   A. brownish-yellow.
   B. "Long rows of great hairy mammoths marched across the cavern wall, together with running horses, bristling boars and giant cave bears, all in varied shades of red, tawny browns and yellows."
6. rasping: harsh, grating on your nerves sound, like metal on metal.
B. "He looked off toward the big, rasping fire in the center of the camp and worried about Graybeard."
C.

7. burden
A. package; something heavy.
B. "He was thinking of this when he saw four hunters carry a long burden wrapped in bearksins and set it on the ground near the big fire."
C.

8. flint
A. hard, fine-grained variety of quartz, that produces sparks when struck against steel; used for starting fires and for making knives.
B. "Hush," said Kala, her dark form leaning over him, a flint knife in her hand."
C.

9. lashed
A. tied with rope or twine.
B. "Volt and the hunters carried the old shaman's body lashed to a frame of birch poles."
C.

Comprehension

1. Why did Graybeard give Tao his deerskin pouch?
2. Why is Tao drawing a picture of the longhorn bull?
3. Why were the people so angry at Tao? What was the punishment they gave him?
4. Why did Kala compare Tao to his mother? What did she say?
5. Describe Saxon's attack and Tao's response.
6. Why do you think Volt jumped off the rimrock and yelled and waved his arms?
7. How did Graybeard's pouch help Tao?
8. What does Graybeard's advice, "If they wish to call it magic, then let it be so," mean? How did this advice help Tao?
9. What made Volt change his mind about wolf dogs?
10. Why did Volt say that Tao no longer needed a father?