

The Red Badge of Courage

Stephen Crane

Why does the squirrel feel like proof to Henry even though it cannot answer the moral question he is asking?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The squirrel becomes evidence
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter VII
START	He threw a pine cone at a jovial squirrel, and he ran with chattering fear.
END	The youth wended, feeling that Nature was of his mind.
PASSAGE ID	sec-rbc-02

THE MOVE

Catch motivated reasoning in the act

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Henry throws a pine cone at a squirrel and treats its flight as proof that running from battle is natural. The animal's behavior answers a question about immediate self-preservation, but Henry uses it to justify a moral choice the squirrel cannot evaluate.

MARK

Underline the question Henry is trying to settle about his own flight. Circle what the squirrel actually does. Draw a line to the conclusion Henry claims the behavior proves and mark the gap between them.

NOTICE

- What can the squirrel's response legitimately show about instinct?
- What moral question is Henry asking that the squirrel cannot answer?
- Why does he accept this weak evidence so eagerly?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does the squirrel feel like proof to Henry even though it cannot answer the moral question he is asking? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does the squirrel feel like proof to Henry even though it cannot answer the moral question he is asking? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The squirrel feels like proof because Henry desperately wants evidence that flight is natural and therefore morally justified. The animal answers an instinct question, not the human moral question Henry is asking.
EVIDENCE	Use Henry's test, the squirrel's flight, and the conclusion he draws from it.
WATCH FOR	Do not argue the squirrel proves nothing at all. It proves something about instinct; the error is using that evidence to settle a different moral issue.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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START ANCHOR	He threw a pine cone at a jovial squirrel, and he ran with chattering fear.
END ANCHOR	The youth wended, feeling that Nature was of his mind.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Underline the question Henry is trying to settle about his own flight. Circle what the squirrel actually does. Draw a line to the conclusion Henry claims the behavior proves and mark the gap between them.
2. NOTICE - What can the squirrel's response legitimately show about instinct? What moral question is Henry asking that the squirrel cannot answer? Why does he accept this weak evidence so eagerly?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why does the squirrel feel like proof to Henry even though it cannot answer the moral question he is asking?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.