

# Kingdom of the Man Eaters



Beckett/Henderson  
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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	9	10 Kingdom of the Man Eaters Culminating	11 Day 1 Chapter 1	12 Day 2  Chapter 2 Chapter 3	13 Day 3 Donut Day  Chapter 4	14
15	16 Chapter 5	17 Chapter 6	18 Chapter 7 Chapter 8	19 Chapter 9	20 Chapter 10 Donut Day	21
22	23 Final Assignment	24 Movie	25 Movie	26	27	28

Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Work Checklist and Table of Contents			
Chapter	Title	Page	Checklist
Chapter 1	Questions	3	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vocabulary	4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 2	Questions	6	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vocabulary	8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 3	Questions	10	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vocabulary	11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 4	Questions	13	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vocabulary	14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 5	Questions	17	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vocabulary	18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 6	Questions	21	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vocabulary	22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 7	Questions	25	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vocabulary	26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 8	Questions	29	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vocabulary	30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 9	Questions	33	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vocabulary	34	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chapter 10	Questions	36	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Vocabulary	37	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>FINAL</b>	Final Project	38	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Chapter 1

A warm wind swept across the plain. It blew through the grass and made the trees stir. An elephant flapped its ears and moved slowly down to the river. The African sun began to sink behind the distant hills.

Eyes stared out through the swaying grass. They flashed like fire. They watched a herd of zebra by the water hole. They saw a vulture picking over a fresh kill. They fixed on men moving across the plain.

ihgu

Now ears twitched above the dancing grass. The men were working on a railway line. The ears picked out the sound of fresh prey.

The railway track went for many miles across scrub, desert and swamp. The men had been building the railway for months. Now they were putting up a bridge. It was slow work. The wind brought their smell through the grass. The smell of human flesh.

The eyes and ears fixed on one of the tents. It was where the men slept. It would be easy to get inside. As darkness fell, the tired workers went to their tents. Soon there was no one awake to hear the pad of paws in the grass. No one was around to shout a warning.

The year was 1898. Thousands of men were building the railway across the plains of East Africa. It was a big job, run by the British. The workers had reached the Tsavo River and had to stop to build a bridge. It would take time to get all the stone and wood to make it. So they set up camp and got to work.

The Tsavo River runs through Kenya. Tsavo became well known. Not for the railway or the bridge, but for the lions that came, night after night. Lions that were hungry and keen to kill.

For almost a year, two man-eaters prowled the bridge. They picked off workers one by one. Nothing could stop them. No one could keep them away. Work on the bridge had to stop.

The whole thing was about to close down. It seemed the lions were taking over.

Then one man began to fight back. And it was a hard fight.

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 1***

1. List four animals from the African plain that are mentioned in chapter 1.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What year does the story take place?

3. Why does the work on the railway stop when the workers reach the Tsavo River?

4. Why does the Tsavo River region become well known?

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 1 Vocabulary***

Fill in the blanks with one of the words from the word bank. The words are used only once.

1. The lions watched a \_\_\_\_\_ of zebra by the watering hole.
2. Eyes stared out through the \_\_\_\_\_ grass.
3. No one was around to shout a \_\_\_\_\_ that the Lions were about to attack.
4. There were thousands of men building a \_\_\_\_\_ across the plains of East Africa.
5. A warm wind \_\_\_\_\_ across the East African \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The railway track went on for many miles across \_\_\_\_\_, swamps and desert.
7. The lions that came, night after night, were hungry and to kill.

## WORD BANK

**SWEPT WARNING RAILWAY SWAYED  
KEEN PLAIN HERD SCRUB**

Create an interesting and logical sentence with as many of the WORD BANK words as you can:

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## Chapter 2

John Patterson arrived in Africa on 1 March 1898. He was an engineer. His job was to plan and build the railway bridge at Tsavo. He took the train across Kenya to where the railway line came to a stop. Not far away was the camp where all the Indian workers lived.

It wasn't long after he reached Tsavo that a few workers began to disappear. It was very odd. Each morning another bed was empty. Another man had gone. Had he run away? Was there a murderer on the loose? Some men said they'd seen a lion by one of the tents. At first John didn't know what to think. Then he saw the paw prints in the sand. There was blood, too. A trail of blood led into the trees.

John began to follow the tracks. It wasn't long before he found the half-eaten body of a man. The skin had been torn off and the flesh had been sucked dry. These were the tell-tale signs of a lion's kill. Not far away in the grass lay the man's head. The eyes were open wide in a stare of terror. The man had been dragged for nearly a mile and then eaten alive.

Now John knew the truth. There was a man-eating lion out there. It had killed before and would kill again. As long as it lived, no one was safe.

That night John climbed a tree near the dead man's tent. He held on to his shotgun and waited in the darkness. He heard a twig snap and lifted his gun. A low growl rose out of the night. Then nothing. Silence. He waited till dawn but saw nothing.

A sudden scream filled the early morning calm. A man ran to the tree.

'Mr. Patterson, you come quick. You come to the other camp. Lion come last night. It get a man. It take him away.'

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 2***

1. When did Colonel John Patterson arrive in Tsavo?

Day: \_\_\_\_\_

Month: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was his job?

- a) Train Engineer
- b) Building Engineer
- c) Teacher
- d) Priest

3. What problem started not long after Colonel Patterson arrived in Tsavo?

- a) Workers started getting sick
- b) Workers started to fight
- c) Workers started to complain about money
- d) Workers started disappearing

4. What were some of the possible explanations for this problem? (circle all correct answers)
- a) Workers ran away
  - b) Murderer on the loose
  - c) Man-eating Lion
  - d) Hippopotamus attack
5. At the bottom of page 9 the author states, "Now John knew the truth." What "truth" did John now know?
6. Why might John be surprised that another man was taken in the night at the end of the chapter?

## VOCABULARY STUDY: CHAPTER 2

USE THE WORDS IN THE WORD BANK TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES BELOW:

1. A sudden \_\_\_\_\_ filled the early morning calm.
2. John's eyes still \_\_\_\_\_ the scrub.
3. John Patterson was an \_\_\_\_\_ who arrived in Africa on March 1, 1898.
4. John tried to find out if a \_\_\_\_\_ was on the loose.
5. The man's skin had been torn off and the \_\_\_\_\_ had been sucked dry.
6. The eyes in the man's head were wide open in a stare of \_\_\_\_\_.
7. It wasn't long after John reached Tsavo that workers began to \_\_\_\_\_. It was very \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>MURDERER</b>	<b>SCREAM</b>	<b>DISAPPEAR</b>	<b>TERROR</b>
<b>SCANNED</b>	<b>ENGINEER</b>	<b>ODD</b>	<b>FLESH</b>

Create an interesting and logical sentence with as many of the WORD BANK words as you can:

## Chapter 3

The men were scared. None of the camps was safe. John Patterson knew he must shoot the lion to bring back calm. The next night he went to the camp where the lion last struck. He took a goat with him for bait and tied it to a tree. Once more he hid out of sight with his gun ready. It rained all night. He was cold and wet. He had to get a shot. He had to kill the lion before it had the chance to strike again.

Just after midnight, he heard the goat. It was scared. John's finger was already on the trigger. All was deathly still. Suddenly, a cry of terror rose from the blackness. It came from far away. From one of the other camps. Screams filled the night, then a chilling silence fell.

The men in the camps began to panic. This lion seemed to know just where to strike. It was as if it knew John Patterson's plans. Some said it must be the devil. Others said an evil spirit had come to punish them.

John was worried, too. It didn't make sense. Why had two men been dragged to their deaths from two camps so far apart? A lion only needs to eat once in a few days. Could it really be so hungry? Unless...the truth slowly began to dawn.

At that moment, an African boy burst into the camp yelling 'Lion! Lion!' the men gathered around. He told them what he'd seen. They all followed him back to his hut. The rain hadn't yet put out the village fire. There, in the red glow, lay a man. He'd been torn to pieces. The boy had seen it all. But there was more to tell.

There hadn't been just one lion. He'd seen two of them. They were both huge. And they were both man-eaters.

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 3***

7. What did Colonel Patterson use for bait in order to kill the lion?
8. Why did the men in the camps begin to panic?
9. Why didn't the lion attacks make sense?
10. The African boy saw the most recent lion attack? What surprise does he reveal?

## VOCABULARY STUDY: CHAPTER 3

USE THE WORDS IN THE WORD BANK TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCES BELOW:

1. The men were scared and none of the camps were \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Screams filled the night, and then a chilling \_\_\_\_\_ fell.
3. Men said the lion was an evil spirit who had come to \_\_\_\_\_ them.
4. John's finger was already on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gun.
5. He took a goat with him for \_\_\_\_\_ and tied it to a tree.
6. Others said an evil \_\_\_\_\_ had come to punish them.
7. The boy had seen the lions and they were both \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The rain hadn't yet put out the \_\_\_\_\_ fire.

<b>BAIT</b>	<b>TRIGGER</b>	<b>SPIRIT</b>	<b>SILENCE</b>
<b>PUNISH</b>	<b>HUGE</b>	<b>VILLAGE</b>	<b>SAFE</b>

Create an interesting and logical sentence with as many of the WORD BANK words as you can:

## Chapter 4

The lions came back night after night. They now had a taste for human flesh. It was as if they were playing a game. A game to show John Patterson how smart they were. A game to make their prey mad with fear.

Sometimes workers would have a lucky escape. One night a man was out on his donkey when one of the lions sprang. It threw the man and his donkey to the ground. Just as the beast was about to finish the man off, it got its claws hooked on a rope. The rope was tied to two empty oil tins. They flew in the air with a clatter. The noise was enough to scare the lion away. It ran off into the jungle. The man couldn't believe his luck.

The next night, it was a Greek worker's turn. He was asleep in his tent when the lion broke in. It seized his mattress and ran off with it. The man slid off and the lion got away with an empty mattress.

Not far away, more workers were sleeping. Suddenly a lion ran at their tent and tore it open. It jumped inside and clawed a man's shoulder. He woke up screaming with pain. The lion opened its jaws. But instead of sinking its teeth into human flesh, it bit into his rice-filled pillow. It shook the pillow in fury and ran off with it, leaving the man stunned with shock.

A trail of rice led to some bushes. The pillow lay in a puddle as if the lion felt cheated of its prey. Clearly, rice pudding wasn't on its menu!

But most nights, the lions scored a hit. Their favourite trick was to drag men from their beds by their feet. Fear returned to the camps. The killers were now working as a team. Together they got more cunning, more deadly.

John Patterson knew he had to get rid of them once and for all. His workers were losing their nerve. They'd nothing to defend themselves with. Many of them couldn't sleep at night. Some fell asleep in the day. Others had already left. The bridge building was falling behind. Work on the line was slowing down. The men were in the grip of fear. He racked his brain. What could he do?

Many camps were spread over the jungle. The lions could choose where to attack next. If John sat guard at one camp, they went to another.

Then he had a plan. He had to act fast. But it would mean taking a risk. He only hoped it was worth the gamble.

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 4***

1. What did the lions now have a taste for?
2. Give one example of how a worker had a lucky escape from the lions?
3. What was the lions' favourite trick to score a hit?
4. Why were the lions now more deadly?
5. Why was it so difficult to guard the workers' camps?

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 4 Vocabulary***

**Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with words from the word bank.**

1. He only hoped his plan was worth the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ were working as a team and together they were more \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The lions were playing a game to make their \_\_\_\_\_ mad with fear.
4. The lion \_\_\_\_\_ the Greek worker's mattress and ran off with it.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ was about to finish off the man, but it got its claws hooked on a rope.
6. Sometimes the workers would have a lucky \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The men were in the \_\_\_\_\_ of fear.

### **Word Bank**

<b>PREY</b>	<b>ESCAPE</b>	<b>BEAST</b>	<b>SEIZED</b>
<b>KILLERS</b>	<b>CUNNING</b>	<b>GRIP</b>	<b>GAMBLE</b>

Create an interesting and logical sentence with as many of the WORD BANK words as you can:

## Chapter 5

John Patterson put his plan into action. He set the men to work. They cut down trees and bushes where the lions could hide. They build high thorn fences around the tents.

Next they made big fires. The fires had to burn all night. The flames would keep the lions away. Lions hate fire.

Lions also hate noise. John gave each camp a night-watchman. The watchman's job was to pull a rope. The rope was tied to a row of empty oil cans. These would clang and crash every time he pulled. They would make such a din the lions would be driven off. At least, that's what John hoped.

Most lions kept away. But not the 'Ghost' and the 'Darkness', as the man-eaters came to be called. They broke the fences. They ran past the fires. They roared at the oil cans. And still they carried off their human prey. They dragged their screaming victims through the fences. They tore the poor men to shreds. Nothing could stop the lions coming back for more. They crept back again and again in the darkness. Their evil eyes shone in the moonlight.

It was no use. John Patterson had to rethink his plans. He knew he had to meet the enemy face to face. It was the only way. He had to get the lions to come in close, so he could shoot them. He mustn't miss. And this time he would be the bait.

A few days later the lions attacked a man working by the track a few miles away. John was ready for them. He and the camp doctor set off for their hideout in an old goods wagon. The wagon door was in two parts. They left the top half open and rested their rifles on the lower part. Nothing stirred in the inky darkness. Midnight came ... and went.

A twig snapped. Cattle grazing nearby grew uneasy. There was a dull thud close to the fence. Something was out there. John lifted his gun and took aim. He could see nothing.

'I'm going out,' he told the doctor. 'If I lie under the wagon, I'll get a better shot.'

The doctor gripped John's arm. 'Don't be a fool. They'll kill you. Stay here.'

He was wise to stop John. As they were speaking, the lion picked up their scent. It began to creep silently toward their wagon. It was now just a leap away. Both men stared into the pitch black.

'I think I saw a shape,' said the doctor.

'I can't see a thing. I can't tell if it's ...'

John had no time to finish before the lion sprang at them. Its snarling jaws spat and roared above the door. Its claws made deep grooves in the wood. The two men fell back in horror. One more second and the lion would be inside.

'Quick! Shoot!'

They both fired at once. The sound of the bullets seemed to explode against the truck's iron roof. The men fell back in the smoking air. The lion had bolted.

For the first time, John had met one of the two man-eaters face to face. He was lucky to escape. But so was the lion. In the morning they found a bullet next to a paw print. He'd missed the lion by a hair's breadth. Next he might get lucky and get it. Or the lion might get him.

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 5***

1. Describe Colonel Patterson's plan to protect the workers' camps.
2. How did 'the Ghost' and 'the Darkness' react to Colonel Patterson's plan?
3. Who did Colonel Patterson decide to use as bait to lure in the lions?
4. How did Colonel Patterson know the lions were getting close?
5. Why does the author think the Doctor was wise to stop John from leaving the wagon?
6. John was lucky to escape from the lion, but why was the lion lucky?

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 5 Vocabulary***

**Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with words from the word bank.**

1. Colonel Patterson missed the lion by a hair's \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Doctor was \_\_\_\_\_ to stop Colonel Patterson.
3. The workers built high \_\_\_\_\_ fences around the tents.
4. The lions \_\_\_\_\_ the poor men to shreds.
5. The lions' evil eyes shone in the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The cattle grazing nearby grew \_\_\_\_\_.
7. As the Doctor and Colonel Patterson were speaking, the lion picked up their \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Nothing stirred in the \_\_\_\_\_ darkness.

### **Word Bank**

**THORN TORE MOONLIGHT UNEASY  
SCENT BREADTH INKY WISE**

Create an interesting and logical sentence with as many of the WORD BANK words as you can:

## Chapter 6

The lions kept away for a while. Perhaps the near miss from John's bullet had shocked them. Or maybe it was just part of their game.

John Patterson was busy with new plans. If he couldn't shoot the lions, he'd have to catch them. It was time to make a trap.

He made a large wooden cage. It was in two parts, with iron bars in the middle. A man would sit in one end. A lion would smell the prey and jump into the other end. There would be bars between them. The bars would keep the human dinner safe.

The lion would trigger a spring on the floor. This would make a door fall down, trapping the beast. It was all very simple. But would the lions be fooled? John put the trap inside a tent. He hoped this would tempt them to strike.

Night after night John sat in the trap. He waited with his gun, but no lions came. They were in another camp. They'd broken through the thick thorn fences without a sound and killed men in their beds. The workers had shouted and thrown stones, but nothing could scare the animals away.

Again, the men grew scared. They couldn't sleep at night. Who would be the next victim? Their work almost came to a stop.

John, too, was getting more and more worried. Night after night he was on the lookout. But he could never see more than a few metres in the darkness. The strain was starting to show.

If he kept watch at one camp, the lions would attack at another. Could they read his mind? How did they know his plans? Later he wrote, 'In my whole of my life, I have never known anything more nerve-shaking. To hear the deep roars of these monsters coming nearer and to know one of us was doomed to be their victim before morning was truly dreadful.'

By now he was at his wits' end. These devils knew every move he made. How could he stop them? If only he could find them in daylight. But they always hid deep in the jungle by day. He'd tried to track them down, but never found them. Every night he lay in wait. And almost every night the 'Ghost' and the 'Darkness' added another victim to their list. They seemed to feed only on human flesh. They seemed to kill for the fun of it.

John's trap stayed empty. His workers lost faith in him. Some began to mock his efforts. The mood in the camps went from bad to worse. It all seemed hopeless. The man-eaters

of Tsavo were killing not only men but also the whole railway project. Back in London the railway bosses were not happy. This was costing money. Something had to be done.

John looked out across the plains. The grass whispered in the wind. He saw giraffes feeding in the sunset. He heard baboons leaping in the treetops.

He looked once more at his empty lion trap. He knew he had to win soon. One way or another, he had to get rid of the killers. This was a fight to the death.

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 6***

1. What does Colonel Patterson decide to do to catch the lions?
2. How does John try to tempt the lions to strike?
3. How do the workers try to scare the animals away?
4. Why couldn't Colonel Patterson find the lions during the day?
5. Why do John's workers lose faith in his efforts?
6. Why were the railway bosses unhappy?

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 6 Vocabulary***

**Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with words from the word bank.**

1. Colonel Patterson could never see more than a few metres into the darkness and the \_\_\_\_\_ was beginning to show.
2. Colonel Patterson hoped that putting the trap inside the tent would tempt the lions to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. To hear the deep roars of the monsters coming nearer and to know one of us was doomed to be their \_\_\_\_\_ before morning was truly \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Colonel Patterson heard \_\_\_\_\_ leaping in the treetops.
5. The grass \_\_\_\_\_ in the wind.
6. Colonel Patterson's workers lost \_\_\_\_\_ in him.
7. Some workers began to \_\_\_\_\_ Colonel Patterson's efforts to kill the lions.

### **Word Bank**

**DREADFUL VICTIM FAITH MOCK  
WHISPERED BABOONS STRIKE STRAIN**

Create an interesting and logical sentence with as many of the WORD BANK words as you can:

## Chapter 7

Yet again, screams filled the night. Now the lions were at the railway station. They'd ripped bags open and broken down doors. A man hid in one of the huts. He didn't stand a chance. A lion pulled him through the gap under the door. He was dragged across the track and torn apart.

John Patterson heard the crunching of bones somewhere in the blackness. Two of the workers cried out in fear. One of them died of shock! The two lions were hunting together most of the time. As a pair they were even more deadly. Nothing could stop them. Nothing scared them.

John fired into the night. The lions didn't stir. Guns no longer bothered them. He could still hear their purrs as they calmly ate their kill. If only there was a moon to see by.

The next day he tried again to find their den. He knew it was a waste of time. He knew they hid deep in the jungle. He followed their tracks and heard their growls. He found a chewed up arm under a bush. But the jungle was too thick. Trying to find them was hopeless.

By the time he got back to camp, a riot had started. Some workers had gone on strike. They wouldn't stay another day in Tsavo with 'the Ghost' and 'the Darkness' on the prowl. The building of the railway and bridge came to a halt. No work was done for three weeks. Those who stayed spend their time making lion-proof huts on stilts. Some dug pits in their tents so they could sleep inside under a cover of logs. Others slept in trees.

One night the lions came sniffing around one of the trees. The men in the branches froze with fear. But they were safer there than in a tent. The lions liked ripping those down best. They prowled around the tents then tore through the canvas. The men inside ran out screaming. All but one. They sunk their teeth into his neck.

A few nights later, John heard a sound that filled him with hope. It came from his trap at the other end of the camp. Two men were waiting inside the trap. The door had slammed shut. Shots fired. There was an angry roar. At last! The two men inside must have done their job.

John ran to the cage. He shone a bright light inside. He couldn't believe his eyes. The trap was empty! Its door hung open. At the far end behind the bars, the two men on 'bait duty' were frozen with fear. A lamp lit their shocked faces.

After a long time they were able to tell their story. The lion had jumped into the cage and the door had slammed shut. It gave them such a shock they'd lost their nerve and couldn't

aim their guns. The lion went mad and clawed at them through the bars. At last they'd fired some shots. They missed every time. Bullets flew round the cage. One blew away the bar on the door. It swung open and the lion ran off. The men were shaking with fright.

The lions of Tsavo had won again. Maybe it was true what some of the men had been saying. The lions really did seem to have evil powers. Could nothing kill them? Were they demons after all?

Even John Patterson began to wonder. He went back to his hut and sat with his head in his hands. Would this nightmare never end?

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 7***

1. Why were the two lions becoming more deadly?
2. Why is Colonel Patterson having such a hard time finding the lions' den?
3. How long was work on the railway and bridge stopped because of the workers' strike and riot?
4. How do the workers try to protect themselves when they are sleeping?  
List 3 ways.
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Colonel Patterson hears a sound that fills him with hope. Why?
6. Why does Colonel Patterson's hope turn to frustration?

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 7 Vocabulary***

Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with words from the word bank.

1. Colonel Patterson could still hear their purrs as they \_\_\_\_\_ ate their kill.
2. Colonel John Patterson heard the crunching of bones somewhere in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Colonel Patterson wondered if this \_\_\_\_\_ would ever end.
4. As a pair, the lions were even more \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The workers would not stay another day in Tsavo with 'the Ghost' and 'the Darkness' on the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. One man was dragged across the railway track and \_\_\_\_\_ apart.
7. Guns no longer \_\_\_\_\_ the lions.
8. By the time Colonel Patterson returned to camp, a \_\_\_\_\_ had started.

### Word Bank

**PROWL RIOT DEADLY NIGHTMARE  
TORN BLACKNESS BOTHERED CALMLY**

Create an interesting and logical sentence with as many of the WORD BANK words as you can:

## Chapter 8

It was now December. The lions had ruled for nine months. Once more the cry rang out, 'Lion! Lion!' The cry had been heard many times before. But this was in daylight. The monsters had never been seen in daylight before.

Someone saw one of the man-eaters by the river. At last John Patterson might get to see the enemy. He grabbed his gun and ran down to the water. One of the lions had already killed a donkey.

John crept through the bushes. His heart was pounding. But the lion heard him and slunk away into the jungle. Quickly, he got a group of men together. He told them to find tins or drums – anything that would make a noise. They spread out and waited.

John lay behind an ant hill. At his signal the men began to bang and scream. The lion came out from cover. It walked towards the ant hill. For the first time he saw the enemy in broad daylight. It was a large male lion with no mane. It turned towards him. Slowly, it lifted its eyes to his face. It fixed him in an evil stare. A deep growl rose from its throat.

John lifted his rifle. He pointed it at the lion's head and squeezed the trigger. There was a soft click. His gun was jammed. They stared at each other. His throat went dry. If the lion sprang now he wouldn't stand a chance. He was saved by the din of the banging drums. The big cat turned and ran back into the jungle.

John reloaded. He pulled the trigger. A loud crack ripped through the trees, followed by an angry growl. Had he hit it? He couldn't be sure. Perhaps the lion had moved deeper into the jungle. Once again the spirits seemed to cast their magic over these beasts. All he could do was return to camp. His own spirits were at an all time low.

He came across the half-eaten donkey by the river. He was sure one of the lions would come back for it in the night. He set to work to build a hide. This was a few planks on top of some long poles. As night fell, he climbed up. This time he made sure his gun was ready.

The dead donkey was tied to a stump to stop the lions dragging it away. In the darkness John heard a rustle. Slowly he lifted his gun. A hungry sigh drifted through the night. A lion was coming nearer.

The beast knew John was there. It forgot about the donkey. Human flesh was better. It was after him now. Sweat ran down his face. He'd built his wobbly perch in a hurry. If the lion jumped up at him, the whole lot could fall.

The lion was in no hurry. It just waited. John couldn't tell where it was in the pitch black.

He felt a sudden blow to his head. His heart skipped a beat. He was so terrified he nearly fell off the planks. He gave a sigh of relief. It was just an owl looking for a perch! The shock had nearly made him drop his gun. His nerves were so bad he was scared he might do something stupid. Then, just below him, he saw a shape. A big shape. And it was moving.

John aimed the gun and pulled the trigger. A great roar followed the shot. He could hear twigs cracking and angry groans. He could tell a large body was thrashing about in the grass. He fired again. There was a sigh. Then silence. Had he killed one of the lions at last? Men came running from their tents. Their lights shone through the trees. John told them to take care. The lion might still be alive.

He climbed slowly down from his hide. With his gun aimed at the darkness, he went back to camp. He could hardly wait till morning. At first light he'd see if he'd killed the enemy at last.

At last the sun rose over the hills. John rushed back to the river. Not far away in the bushes he saw a huge lion. It looked as if it was about to leap at him. He moved nearer. It was still. Flies buzzed around its head. It was stone dead. John took off his hat and wiped the sweat from his brow. The lion was dead.

Soon a crowd of workers joined him. The party started there and then with singing, dancing and loud cheers. It took eight men to carry the body back to camp. The lion was three metres from nose to tail. It had a bullet through the heart. The news spread like wild-fire. They lifted John on their shoulders and carried him like a king. 'The lion is dead. Long live John Patterson!'

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 8***

1. What is different about the most recent Lion attack?
2. Describe the Lion that Colonel Patterson sees. How is this lion different than most male lions?
3. Colonel Patterson nearly dies. What saves him?
4. Why does John tell the workers to be careful when searching for the lion he has shot?
5. How many men does it take to carry the dead lion back to camp?
6. How big is the lion?
7. How do the workers react to John's success?

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 8 Vocabulary***

**Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with words from the word bank.**

1. The news of the dead lion spread like \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Colonel Patterson built a \_\_\_\_\_ perch in a hurry.
3. At John's \_\_\_\_\_ the men began to bang and scream.
4. The blow to John's head was just an owl looking for a \_\_\_\_\_.
5. John fired again and there was a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. At first light, John would see if he'd killed the \_\_\_\_\_ at last.
7. Colonel Patterson was saved by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the banging drums.
8. Once again the \_\_\_\_\_ seemed to cast their magic over these beasts.

### **Word Bank**

**DIN ENEMY SIGNAL SPIRITS  
SIGH WOBBLY PERCH WILD-FIRE**

Create an interesting and logical sentence with as many of the WORD BANK words as you can:

## Chapter 9

Perhaps they should've waited. The other lion was still out there. And it came looking. One night it killed some goats. As it was about to carry one off, John got a shot at it. It ran off with a roar. Perhaps he'd hit it. He couldn't be sure. It didn't return for many nights. People began to relax again. Maybe the second lion had died of its wounds.

Just after Christmas, John woke with a start. Men were screaming. A lion was breaking into their tent. They could just make out its shape in the darkness. A few shots scared it away.

But it was clear the second lion was still alive and well. It was still on the loose and it was hungry.

The next night, John climbed a nearby tree in hope that the lion would come back. This time a full moon bathed the land in a silver glow. In the early hours of the morning he saw a dark shape below the tree. A pair of eyes sparked in the shadows. The man-eater was stalking him. It was about twenty metres away when John fired a shot into its chest. It ran away as he fired more shots. He heard its roars fading into the night.

As soon as it was light, John and another man followed a trail of blood through the bushes. As they pushed through the scrub, they suddenly heard a warning growl. The lion was there in front of them, its huge mouth open in a snarl. As John fired a shot, the beast sprang to its feet. It leapt towards them at great speed. He fired again and it plunged to the ground.

He held out his hand to the other man. 'I'm out of bullets. Pass me your gun.'

There was no answer. The man was already climbing the nearest tree. Sensing John's fear, the lion suddenly jumped up and ran at him. John lost no time in following his friend up the tree. He swung his legs clear just in time. The lion's claws left deep grooves in the trunk.

The beast was hurt. Its roar was weaker now. It began to limp off into the jungle. John grabbed the gun and fired a last shot. The lion sank in the grass and lay still. The two men came down from the tree. Very slowly they edged towards the lion.

They were only a metre or two away when it leapt up and charged at them. John took aim. It rushed towards him, spitting and snarling. Its teeth and claws were enormous. His heart was beating like a hammer. Slowly he squeezed the trigger. The lion was almost on him when it fell. He fired again. The animal groaned. Its teeth locked onto a branch lying on

the ground. Within seconds it was all over. The lion was dead. It had taken six bullets to kill it.

The shots had been heard all over camp. Again, the workers came running. John was a hero. They sang over and over again, 'Devil-Killer! Devil-Killer!' At last, the camps were safe. The men were happy again. They could get back to work in peace. The railway bridge was finished just two months later.

People came from far and wide to see the dead lions. Even though their skins were badly torn from thorns and bullets, the huge beasts were an amazing sight. 'The Ghost' and 'The Darkness' were silent at last. Their time of terror was over. Their kingdom had ended.

A warm breeze swept through the long grass once more. This time no hungry eyes stared across the plains. Elephants grazed in the sun. a hippo rolled in the warm mud. A zebra foal took its first steps to the water hole. An eagle soared above the dark hills. T savo was at peace once more, sleeping under the African sky.

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 9***

1. Why do the workers begin to relax again?
2. What is different about the next night Colonel Patterson goes into the tree to hunt the last lion?
3. How many bullets does it take to kill the second lion?
4. How long does it take to finish the railway bridge once the lions are killed?
5. Give 3 details which describe why 'the Ghost' and 'the Darkness' were an amazing sight.
  - i. \_\_\_\_\_
  - ii. \_\_\_\_\_
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 9 Vocabulary***

**Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with words from the word bank.**

1. The lion began to \_\_\_\_\_ off into the jungle.
2. The lion was in front of them, its huge mouth open in a \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The lion's claws left deep \_\_\_\_\_ in the tree's trunk.
4. A full moon \_\_\_\_\_ the land in a silver glow.
5. The remaining lion didn't return for several days and the workers began to \_\_\_\_\_ again.
6. The lion rushed towards them and its teeth and claws were \_\_\_\_\_.
7. A zebra \_\_\_\_\_ took its first steps to the water hole.
8. Tsavo was at peace once more, sleeping under the \_\_\_\_\_ African sky.

### **Word Bank**

**RELAX BATHED GROOVES ENORMOUS  
FOAL VAST SNARL LIMP**

Create an interesting and logical sentence with as many of the WORD BANK words as you can:

## Chapter 10

John Patterson's story was told around the world. Everyone heard of the two lions that stopped a railway. Even now – over a hundred years later – people are shocked by their grisly record. Between them, the 'man-eaters of Tsavo' at about 140 people.

We'll never know why the Tsavo lions became man-eaters. Lions usually keep away from people. But in the 1890s there was a lot of disease in East Africa. Much of the wildlife that lions fed on died. These lions may have been so hungry they had to eat people instead.

Also, many of the men working on the railway died from disease. Sometimes the lions would dig up their bodies. Perhaps 'The Ghost' and 'The Darkness' got a taste for these easy meals and then went for live humans.

The lions' den turned out to be a cave in the thick of the jungle. It was found again in 1997. It was full of bones and human skulls.

The man-eaters can still be seen today. They're on show in the Field Museum of Chicago. Their skins have been used to make life-size lion models. You can see them at:

[http://www.fieldmuseum.org/exhibits/exhibit\\_sites/tsavo/default.htm](http://www.fieldmuseum.org/exhibits/exhibit_sites/tsavo/default.htm)

You can also see pictures of John Patterson, his bridge and the lions after they were shot. There are photos of the railway, the thick thorn fences and the tents, too.

Or you can try to imagine. Imagine the swamps...the plains...the heat haze of East Africa. And imagine the ghosts still drifting on the breeze, stirring in the grass...where killers were kings...in the kingdom of the man-eaters.

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 10***

1. How many people did 'the Ghost' and 'the Darkness' eat?
2. Give two reasons the lions may have become man-eaters.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
3. When was the lions' den found again?
4. What was the lions' den full of?
5. Where can you go to see the lions today?
6. What were the lions' skins used for?
7. Where can you go if you want to see pictures of John Patterson, his bridge, or the lions?

## ***Kingdom of the Man-eaters: Chapter 10 Vocabulary***

**Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with words from the word bank.**

1. These lions may have been so hungry they had to eat people \_\_\_\_\_.
2. In the 1890's there was a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ in East Africa.
3. Over 100 years later, people are shocked at the \_\_\_\_\_ record of the lions.
4. The lions' \_\_\_\_\_ turned out to be a cave in the thick of the jungle.
5. Much of the \_\_\_\_\_ the lions fed on died.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ the ghosts still drifting in the breeze, stirring in the grass, where killers were kings in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the man-eaters.
7. Imagine the swamps, the plains and the heat \_\_\_\_\_ of East Africa.

### **Word Bank**

**GRISLY DISEASE HAZE WILDLIFE  
DEN IMAGINE KINGDOM INSTEAD**

# ***Most Dangerous Animal Digital Exhibition***

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Create an informative report about the most dangerous animal on the planet using the computer program Photostory. Or PowerPoint Office Mix

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## Instructions:

1. Choose an animal that you feel is the most dangerous animal on the face of the world. The following are some of examples: Lions, Tigers, Bears (Oh my), alligators, crocodiles, cobra, jellyfish, hippopotami, or any other extremely dangerous animal that your teacher approves.
2. Use the internet to find a minimum of 10 different pictures of your animal. Save these pictures to your M drive. Make sure they are high resolution pictures.
3. Research information about your chosen animal. Find information about the following things:
  - i. What does the animal eat?
  - ii. What type of habitat does your animal live in?
  - iii. How big is your animal?
  - iv. What unique or special traits/characteristics does your animal have?
  - v. How many babies does your animal have?
  - vi. Is your animal in danger of extinction?
  - vii. Does your animal live in a family group?
  - viii. Does your animal stay in one place or does it have a range?
  - ix. Does your animal have any natural predators or enemies?
  - x. How long does your animal live?
4. Find a piece of music which is appropriate to your presentation. In other words, your animal is scary and dangerous. Find scary and dangerous music.
5. Use PhotoStory or Office Mix I will help with that
6. Include Titles, Music and Narration

# Digital Animal Exhibition Rubric

Criteria	R	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Knowledge/Understanding -knowledge of animal		-limited accurate knowledge of animal	-some accurate knowledge of animal	-considerable accurate knowledge of animal	-Extensive accurate knowledge of animal
Thinking/Inquiry -music choice is appropriate  -accurate photo choices  -Narrationsrepresent accurate information		-music choice not appropriate  -image choices portray animals with limited accuracy  -narration represent inaccurate information	-music choice is somewhat appropriate  -image choices portray animals with some accuracy  -narration represent somewhat accurate information	-music choice is appropriate  -image choices portray animals with considerable accuracy  -narration represent accurate information	-music choice is appropriate and effective  -image choices portray animals with a high degree of accuracy  -narration represent highly accurate information
Communication -pacing  -effectiveness		-pacing of presentation is not appropriate  -ideas are not well expressed or effective	-pacing of presentation is somewhat effective  -ideas are expressed with some effectiveness	-pacing of presentation is effective  -ideas are expressed with effectiveness	-pacing of presentation is insightful and effective  -ideas are expressed with a high degree of effectiveness
Application -spelling, grammar and usage  -use of software		-poor use of spelling, grammar and usage  -poor use of software to create an effective presentation	-somewhat effective use of spelling, grammar and usage  -somewhat effective use of software to create an effective presentation	-effective use of spelling, grammar and usage  - effective use of software to create an effective presentation	-highly effective use of spelling, grammar and usage  -highly effective use of software to create an effective presentation