



How many times have you read your favorite book? I get to read mine every year! Where the Red Fern Grows, by Wilson Rawls, is a classic. The third graders at Westbrook Elementary hear this book each year. When we finish reading it, we watch the movie. My students always like the book better than the movie, do you know why? I guess you'll have to read the book to find out.

This book teaches so many lessons. One big lesson is perseverance. Billy Coleman wants hunting dogs but his family is too poor to afford them. He needs to find a way to get them himself. The things Billy does to get his dogs shows a lot of perseverance.

Another lesson this book teaches is faithfulness. The faithfulness that Old Dan and Little Ann, Billy's dogs, show toward Billy and one another is astounding.

Where the Red Fern Grows is a book for readers of all ages and genders. It's a book about a boy, his dogs, and coon hunting, but so much more. The girls in my class like the book just as much as the boys!

A red fern? What does it mean? That's the secret at the end.

Steve LeBoutillier--October 2007

