

## EXCERPTS FROM "RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI" BY RUDYARD KIPLING

**Directions:** On a sheet of notebook paper, write your heading and number 1–15. Determine if each underlined sentence is indicative, interrogative, or imperative. Write the correct type for each underlined sentence on your notebook paper.

### Excerpt #1:

Rikki-tikki-tavi the mongoose had never met a live cobra before, his mother had fed him on dead ones, and he knew that all a grown mongoose's business in life was to fight and eat snakes. Nag (the cobra) knew that too and, at the bottom of his cold heart, he was afraid. "Well," said Rikki-tikki, and his tail began to fluff up again, " **(1)** Marks or no marks, do you think it is right for you to eat fledglings out of a nest?" Nag was thinking to himself, and watching the least little movement in the grass behind Rikki-tikki. He knew that mongooses in the garden meant death sooner or later for him and his family, but he wanted to get Rikki-tikki off his guard. So he dropped his head a little, and put it on one side. "**(2)** Let us talk," he said. "You eat eggs. **(3)** Why should not I eat birds?" **(4)** "Behind you! Look behind you!" sang Darzee (the bird).

### Excerpt #2:

"When the house is emptied of people," said Nagaina [the cobra] to her husband, "he [the mongoose] will have to go away, and then the garden will be our own again. **(5)** Go in quietly and remember that the big man who killed Karait is the first one to bite. **(6)** Then come out and tell me, and we will hunt for Rikki-tikki together." **(7)** But are you sure that there is anything to be gained by killing the people?" said Nag [the cobra]

"Everything. **(8)** When there were no people in the bungalow, did we have any mongoose in the garden? So long as the bungalow is empty, we are king and queen of the garden; and

remember that as soon as our eggs in the melon bed hatch (as they may tomorrow), our children will need room and quiet." "I had not thought of that," said Nag. "I will go, but there is no need that we should hunt for Rikki-tikki afterward. **(9)** I will kill the big man and his wife, and the child if I can, and come away quietly. Then the bungalow will be empty, and Rikki-tikki will go." **(10)** Rikki-tikki tingled all over with rage and hatred at this, and then Nag's head came through the sluice, and his five feet of cold body followed it. Angry as he was, Rikki-tikki was very frightened as he saw the size of the big cobra. Nag coiled himself up, raised his head, and looked into the bathroom in the dark, and Rikki could see his eyes glitter. "Now, if I kill him here, Nagaina will know; and if I fight him on the open floor, the odds are in his favor. **(11)** What am I to do?" said Rikki-tikki-tavi. Nag waved to and fro, and then Rikki-tikki heard him drinking from the biggest water-jar that was used to fill the bath. "That is good," said the snake. "Now, when Karait was killed, the big man had a stick. **(12)** He may have that stick still, but when he comes in to bathe in the morning he will not have a stick. I shall wait here till he comes. **(13)** Nagaina—do you hear me?—I shall wait here in the cool till daytime." There was no answer from outside, so Rikki-tikki knew Nagaina had gone away. **(14)** Nag coiled himself down, coil by coil, round the bulge at the bottom of the water jar, and Rikki-tikki stayed still as death. After an hour he began to move, muscle by muscle, toward the jar. **(15)** Nag was asleep, and Rikki-tikki looked at his big back, wondering which would be the best place for a good hold. "If I don't break his back at the first jump," said Rikki, "he can still fight. And if he fights—O Rikki!"

Kipling, R. (1894). Rikki-Tikki-Tavi. *The Jungle Book*. Harper and Brothers: New York, NY. Ebook. Project Gutenberg. Retrieved from <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/236> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TK35A5IHB3Q>).