

THE FIGHT

Excerpt: A

“I will have to beat you,” said the stranger, assuming a violent attitude, showing Ranji the palm of his hand.

“I am waiting to see you do it,” said Ranji.

“You will see me do it,” said the other boy.

1. The line shows an early stage of conflict. Explain the kind of relationship that exists between the two boys here.
2. The dialogue is short and direct. Comment on the mood that these exchanges create.
3. The stranger’s gesture of showing his palm carries a deeper meaning. State what it suggests.
4. The use of repetition in the conversation adds to the tone of the scene. Explain its purpose.
5. The situation marks a key moment in the narrative. Indicate how it helps to move the story forward.

Excerpt: B

“Will you teach me?” asked his enemy.

“If you like, I will teach you.”

“You must teach me. If you do not teach me, I will beat you.

Will you come here every day and teach me?”

“If you like,” said Ranji.

They had pulled themselves out of the water and were sitting side by side on a smooth grey rock.

1. The word “enemy” is used here in a new context. Explain what change has occurred in their relationship.
2. The repeated reference to “teaching” has symbolic importance. Discuss what it implies about the boys’ interaction.
3. The setting of the “smooth grey rock” carries significance. Describe what it adds to the mood of the scene.
4. The tone of the passage is lighter than earlier moments. Mention what this shift reveals about the characters.
5. The exchange captures a turning point. State how this moment reflects the theme of the story.