

Rikki-tikki-tavi vs three skeleton key



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Two of the short stories we have read this year, “ Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” by Rudyard Kipling and “ Three Skeleton Key” by George Toudouze, are suspense stories that have many similarities but also some differences. One important similarity between these two stories has to do with the characters. In both fantasies, the antagonists (or villains) are animals. Nag and Nagaina were snakes in “ Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” that tried to kill Rikki-Tikki-Tavi and take over the garden.

In “ Three Skeleton Key”, fierce, vengeful rats that came ashore, attacking the lighthouse crew, were the antagonists. Also, both Rikki-Tikki-Tavi and the Narrator had similar senses of responsibility. Rikki felt he was responsible for keeping the people who lived in the bungalow safe. The Narrator’s duty was to keep the lighthouse lit to warn passing ships of its existence. The men struggled with the decision to turn off the light in the lighthouse, even when it seemed to be their last hope in surviving.

Another comparison that can be made between these two stories is the main conflict. In “ Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” and “ Three Skeleton Key”, the conflict was a fight for survival. Rikki’s valiant effort to defend himself and his friends against Nag and Nagaina climaxed in his fight with Nagaina in the rat hole. He ended up killing Nagaina and saving everyone. In “ Three Skeleton Key”, the Narrator, Itchoua, and LeGleo struggle for several days against killer rats that are intent on destroying them.

The men decide not to light the lantern in hopes that a patrol ship would investigate. The quick thinking of Itchoua to light the lantern when the rescue ship arrived saved the men from a terrible death at the hands of the

rats. The theme of “ Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” and “ Three Skeleton Key” can both be summed up as even though you may be outnumbered or out-sized, never give up. The Narrator, LeGleo and Itchoua, along with Rikki-Tikki-Tavi, never gave up hope. They kept fighting through their struggle until they got the outcome they were looking for.

Rikki-Tikki defeated Nag and Nagaina and the men on Three Skeleton Key fought against the rats to stay alive until help came. These two stories have their differences, too. One major contrast is the setting. The setting of a story plays a huge part in making the story believable or unbelievable. The time and place helps to determine this. The setting and its description actually puts the reader into the story. A good description of a setting allows the reader to become part of the story.

The setting of “ Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” takes place in a bungalow and garden in India. On the other hand, “ Three Skeleton Key” is set on an isolated island off the coast of French Guiana, in South America. Interestingly, though, I did find one similarity in the setting. The locations of the settings were both ruled by other countries. At the time that the stories were written, French Guiana was a colony of France and India was a colony of Great Britain. Another small difference is in the point of view from which the stories were written. Three Skeleton Key” is written in first person, through the Narrator, or lighthouse keeper’s, eyes.

“ Rikki-Tikki-Tavi” is written in third person. These two stories are both suspenseful. They make us curious and anxious to know what happens next. By reading these tales, we can understand the fight for survival that the men

in the lighthouse and Rikki-Tikki experienced. The theme of having hope in spite of adversity is a good lesson to learn for everybody. The courage shown by the main characters can inspire the reader and encourage perseverance in all aspects of life.