

BOOK KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER – WIND IN THE WILLOWS BY KENNETH GRAHAME

Important Information

Plot

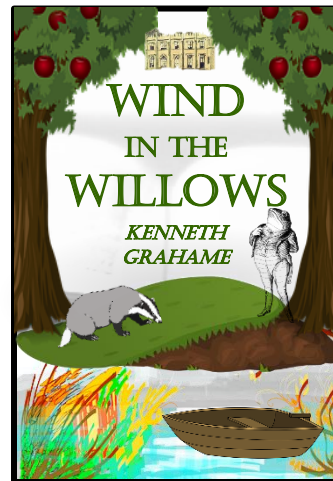
Wind in the Willows follow the adventures of four friends (Mole, Badger, Toad and Rat) and when Toad decides to steal a car, he is arrested and sent to jail. His friends must therefore deal with the bad reputations they develop for being Toad's friend and try to help their friend along the way.

Themes

Friendship, Manners, Consequences, Nature, Arrogance and Responsibility.

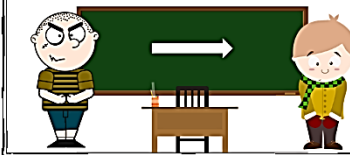
Setting

According to Grahame, a boat trip along the River Fowey (Cornwall) played its part in shaping the vision of watery perfection that leaves Mole "bewitched, entranced, fascinated" at the beginning of The Wind in the Willows. Toad's house (Toad Hall) is an expensive mansion which Toad exclaims is the "Finest house on the whole river. It contains a banqueting-hall, a large boat-house, stables and an ancient underground passage which leads to the riverbank..



THE 7 STORY TYPES

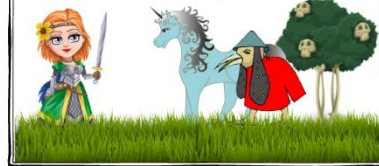
NO. 7 - REBIRTH



THE 7 STORY TYPES

NO. 4 - VOYAGE AND RETURN

Stories like these are of normal protagonists who are suddenly thrust into strange and alien worlds and must make their way back to normal life once more.



Name of Book: Wind in the Willows

Date Published: 1908

Author: Kenneth Grahame / Illustrator: Ernest H. Shepherd (1931)

Reading 'Reconsidered' Spine: Archaic

Genre: Fantasy / Talking Animals

Characters

Mole	A sensible, generous and loyal friend who becomes more courageous.
Rat	Rat is kind, sociable and has good manners, making everyone feel welcome.
Toad	Toad is incredibly wealthy yet very immature who ends up in trouble.
Badger	The oldest and wisest of the animals who lives in the Wild Wood.
Otter	Otter is quick, bright and ready to always lend a hand when it is needed.
Sea Rat	The Sea Rat has spent his life travelling and Rat likes his sense of freedom.
Hedgehogs	Two little hedgehogs who stay with Badger after a snowstorm.
Portly	Otter's son who goes missing.
Pan	Taken from Greek mythology, Pan is a demigod of music and nature. He calls Rat and Mole to Portly through a strange yet beautiful song.
Chief Stoat	This Wild Wood animal leads the weasels and stoats while they live in Toad Hall.
Various helpers	A variety of people either help, or come into contact with Toad during the book: the gaoler's daughter, the engine driver, washerwomen etc.
Others	The book also contains sparrows, mice, weasels and stoats.

What Can the Book Teach Us?

Good friends help them to become better people.

Wealth and riches can lead to their own problems.

Escaping into nature is an adventurous thing.

Quote

"when tired at last, he sat on the bank, while the river still chattered on to him, a babbling procession of the best stories in the world, sent from the heart of the earth to be told at last to the insatiable sea."

"I'm such a clever Toad!"

Key Vocabulary

caressed	touched gently and affectionately
seclusion	to be in private or alone with nobody else visiting
chaffing	mocking or laughing at someone else
insatiable	unable to be filled or satisfied
gingerly	delicately or carefully
penitent	feeling or expressing sorrow for sin or wrongdoing
libel	to misrepresent damagingly
crestfallen	dejected, dispirited, discouraged causing great sadness
shirk	to avoid work, duty, responsibility
cajole	to persuade by flattering someone or convincing them
epitome	typical of the features of the whole thing
tarry	to remain or stay
blithe	joyous, merry, glad, cheerful
bijou	a jewel; something that is small, delicate and carefully made
etiquette	things you should do for correct social behaviour
mire	wet, swampy or marshy ground
asunder	into separate parts; into pieces
anecdote	a short account of a particular personal incident or event
dank	unpleasantly wet, moist or humid, often with a stale smell
debonair	someone who is polite, gracious and is charming

Context - In 1908, Grahame retired from his position as secretary of the Bank of England. He moved back to Berkshire, where he had lived as a child, and spent his time by the River Thames, doing much as the animal characters in his book do - to quote, "simply messing about in boats" - and turning the bedtime stories he had earlier told his son Alastair into a script for the book. The book was written during the Edwardian period (King Edward reigned from 1901-1910). The Edwardian period is sometimes thought of as a romantic golden age of long summer afternoons and garden parties, basking in a sun that never set on the British Empire. However, there was a lot of inequality in society in the United Kingdom in the Edwardian era, as there always had been. Rich people and poor people had very different living standards at this time. Most adult men could vote, but women could not. Suffragettes were fighting for the right to vote.