

Kenneth Grahame The Wind in the Willows

Toad is never happy to sit at home and do nothing. He likes adventure and fun. Sometimes things go wrong, but he is a lucky Toad. He has the most important thing that anyone can have. He has friends. He has Rat, and Mole, and Badger. Follow these four friends around the English countryside. Visit them inside their houses, and travel with them in a car, or on a boat on the river. Listen to the Wind in the Willows.

In this reader you will find:

- Information about Kenneth Grahame
- A section focusing on background and context
- A glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and grammar activities including A1 Movers style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final test

Tags

Adventure | Nature | Friendship

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STAGE 2	800 headwords	Pre-intermediate	A2	Flyers/Key
STAGE 3	1000 headwords	Intermediate	B1	Preliminary

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A1
Kenneth Grahame

The Wind in the Willows

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Stage 1 A1

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KENNETH
GRAHAME

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS



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Book brief

- 1** *The Wind in the Willows* is one of the classics of children's literature.
- 2** The story shows Scottish writer Kenneth Grahame's love of nature that started when he was a child.
- 3** The story uses the adventures of four animals to teach children about what is right and wrong. It also shows how important friendship is.
- 4** The book quickly became popular and there are many films and plays based on the story.
- 5** Adults enjoy this story as much as children do because the animals have interesting human characteristics even if they still have their normal animal habits.

Kenneth Grahame

The Wind in the Willows

Retold by

Michael Lacey Freeman

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For Review Only

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Main Characters



Rat

He loves the river and is always ready to help his friends.



Mole

He doesn't know much about the world but he likes adventures.



Toad

He's rich, he loves talking about himself, and he doesn't usually listen to his friends.

Badger

He's very clever and tells Toad to stop doing silly things.

Before you read

Reading and Writing **MOVERS**

1 Choose the correct word for each sentence.

The Wind in the Willows is a story about four friends: Rat, Mole, Badger and Toady.

~~a~~ one an

1 Rat and Mole _____ by the river.

lives live doesn't live

2 Badger lives _____ the Wild Wood and Toad lives in a big house called Toad Hall.

on to in

3 The story _____ about how friends help each other.

is am are

4 Toad does a _____ of silly things.

lot many much

Reading

2 Read the descriptions of the main characters and match them with the pictures on pages 6 & 7.



1 The Mole He wants to see the world.



2 The Rat He's a good friend.



3 The Toad He likes an exciting life.



4 The Badger He knows a lot of things and tries to help his friends.

Writing

3 The story is called, *The Wind in the Willows*. A willow is a tree. What other things from nature do you think are in the story?

<i>Trees</i>	<i>Wind</i>	

21st
Century
Skills

Chapter 1

My World

- ▶ 2 'It's Spring outside,' thought Mole¹. 'The flowers, the grass, the sun, the sweet music of the birds. I really want to see and hear it all. But first I have to clean my house. It's very dirty.'

Mole looked around his dark house. 'I have to clean the kitchen, and the bedroom, and the bathroom and ... and.' But Mole couldn't finish his sentence.

He couldn't stop thinking of...

Outside!

Up there!

He thought of his favourite flowers, the green grass, the gentle² wind and the hot sun and said,

'It's no good. I have to go out. I have to go...

Up!

Up!

Up!

So he left his house, and soon he was out of his dark home, and into the light of the spring.

Mole was so happy that he started running. He felt the grass under his feet, and the air³ against

It's Spring and Mole doesn't want to stay at home. He wants to see the world above him.

¹ mole 

² gentle not strong

³ air wind

his face. He didn't stop. He couldn't stop. Soon he arrived at the other side of the field.

'This is life!' said Mole.

Then Mole stopped. He could see the river, and he looked at the water. 'The sun is dancing on the water!' he said to himself.

He looked and looked. He couldn't move! It was so beautiful!

'The river is talking to me!' he thought.

Then Mole listened again. It wasn't the river that talked, it was something else. It was an animal on the other side of the river.

'Hello!' it said.

Mole looked at the animal. It had a brown face, small ears and thick hair.

It was Rat!

'Hello, Rat!' said Mole.

'Hi, Mole! Come here and speak to me.'

'I don't want to talk now,' said Mole. There were more important things to do than talking.

But when Rat got into a little boat to cross the river, Mole talked a little more, this time to himself.

'Oh! I love boats,' he said.

'Get in!' said Rat.

The Wind in the Willows

Mole got in the boat. At first he was worried. He couldn't swim. Was it safe?

But soon Mole was in the middle of the river, moving along very slowly, in a little boat made for two.

'This is so relaxing¹,' said Mole. 'My first time in a boat. I'm so excited.'

'Really,' said Rat. 'Your first time?'

'Yes, and it's really nice,' replied Mole.

'Nice!' said the Rat. 'It's more than nice. It's the ONLY thing to do. The great thing about boats is that it's fun all the time. You don't have to go anywhere. Let's go out for the day.'

'Where?' asked Mole.

'Nowhere,' said Rat.

'Let's go nowhere now!' said Mole.

So that's where they went. It was nice for Mole to go nowhere. 'I always know where I'm going. It's nice to not know, just for one day.'

'So, this is a river!' said Mole to his new friend.

'It's not a river. It's THE river!' replied Rat. 'It's my world. It's everything. Winter, or summer, spring or autumn.'

'What's that over there?' asked Mole, pointing to his left.

Mole meets a new friend, Rat, and they go down the river in a boat. Mole loves it. The river is new for Mole but Rat knows the river very well and loves it. It's his world.

¹ **relaxing** when something stops you feeling worried

Kenneth Grahame

Rat doesn't like The Wild Wood and he doesn't want to know about the rest of the world. All he needs is the river.

'Oh, that's The Wild Wood. I don't go there.'

'Why?'

'It's a strange¹ and dangerous place. It's not safe.'

'If you walk to the end of the woods, what can you see?' asked Mole.

'After the woods there's the rest of the world. I don't want to go there and I don't want to see it. This is enough² for me,' said Rat looking at the river.

After saying this, the two friends stopped to have lunch. They left the boat and had a picnic on the grass.

Mole was so happy, and so hungry. There was cold chicken and sandwiches, salad and orange juice. The two friends were very hungry, and soon they finished everything.

After the picnic, Rat and Mole got into the boat again. The afternoon sun was low³ in the sky, and the two friends didn't talk very much.

But then Mole wanted to look at The Wild Wood again. 'Look!' he said, standing up in the boat.

Standing up in a boat isn't very easy. The boat moved, Rat moved, Mole moved. And suddenly⁴,
SPLASH!

Think

Who likes doing new things more, Mole or Rat?

¹ **strange** not something you usually see or do

² **enough** all you need

³ **low** when the sun goes down, it's low in the sky

⁴ **suddenly** when something happens quickly and you're surprised



Rat and Mole are having fun going down the river in Rat's boat.



Alastair

Kenneth Grahame

Rat and Mole were in the river, and the river was very, very cold.

‘Help! Help!’ cried Mole. He was frightened. But soon he felt someone pulling him to the bank¹. It was Rat. He was laughing.

When they were on the bank, Rat said, ‘Now my friend, rest² for a few minutes. I need to go back into the river to get our boat.’

‘I’m so sorry,’ said Mole.

‘That’s all right,’ said Rat. ‘I’m in the water all the time. Don’t worry.’

Rat was so kind³!

‘I have to go home now. It’s late,’ said Mole when they were ready to get back in the boat.

‘Home!’ said Rat. ‘No, you aren’t going home. You’re coming home with me. We have many adventures⁴ in front of us with our boat. You can’t go home now.’

That’s why at the end of the day, Mole went home with Rat. That evening Rat made a fire⁵ to get warm, and told the Mole stories until tea time.

They were very interesting⁶ stories, all about

Mole stands up in the boat to see The Wild Wood and the two friends fall into the river. Mole can’t swim but Rat helps him. Rat isn’t angry with Mole.

¹ **bank** the side of the river

² **rest** sit quietly

³ **kind** nice, good

⁴ **adventure** something exciting you do

⁵ **fire** 

⁶ **interesting** something that you want to listen to, watch or read about

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life in the water, and boats and birds, and many other animals. He often told stories about a friend called, Toad¹. He seemed to be a very interesting animal indeed.

‘Toad is very friendly, and very rich². He’s always happy to see people. He’s not very clever, and sometimes he’s like a little child, but he has a good heart.’

Spring became summer, and Mole spent all of his time with Rat. He didn’t go back to his dark home. He learnt to swim, and began to love the water and life on the river more and more every day.

Then, one summer day, Mole decided³ to ask Rat something.

‘Can you take me to see Toad?’ I really want to meet him.

‘Certainly⁴,’ said Rat. ‘Let’s get the boat and go there now.’

The journey⁵ was very short, and soon they saw a big white house with a beautiful garden.

‘There’s Toad Hall!’ said Rat. ‘Let’s get out of the boat.’

Mole stays with Rat and learns to swim and love the water. One day they visit Rat’s rich friend, Toad, who lives in a big house.

¹ toad 

² rich someone who has a lot of money

³ decide to think about something and then do it

⁴ certainly of course

⁵ journey the time you travel on a bus, train or boat

Kenneth Grahame

The two friends walked across the garden, and soon they saw Toad, sitting on a chair, and looking at a large map.

‘Hooray!’ said Toad when he saw Rat and Mole. ‘Nice to see you! I’m really happy you’re here. You have to help me. It’s something really important. Come with me!’

And so Mole and Rat followed¹ Toad into a garage², where they saw a cart³. The cart was yellow and it even had yellow wheels⁴.

‘There you are!’ said Toad. ‘There’s real life for you. Better than the river. The open road! We can see villages, towns and cities. We leave this afternoon. Everything is ready.’

Mole was very excited, and wanted to look inside the cart. The inside of the cart looked very comfortable⁵. There was a place to sleep and cook. And Mole was even more excited when he saw the biscuits and the jam⁶.

But Rat wasn’t so sure⁷. ‘Sorry,’ he said slowly. ‘Did you say the words ‘We’ and ‘Leave’ and ‘This Afternoon?’’

Toad is happy to see Rat and Mole and wants to take them on a trip in his cart. Mole is excited about this idea but Rat isn't very happy about it.



Mole, Toad and Rat are sitting around the fire having something to eat and the cart and horse are behind Toad. Toad wants to go on a trip with his friends in the cart.

¹ **follow** to walk behind someone

² **garage** where people put their car at home

³ **cart** see picture on page 17

⁴ **wheel** 

⁵ **comfortable** nice and warm

⁶ **jam** 

⁷ **sure** happy about something



Speaking and Writing



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- 1 In Chapter 1 Toad wants to go on a trip with Mole and Rat.
Discuss these questions with a partner and write your answers.

- 1 Why do you think Mole likes Toad's idea more than Rat?
- 2 What kind of new things do you like doing?
- 3 Do you prefer visiting a place in the countryside or a big city? Why?
- 4 Do you prefer the beach or the mountains? Why?
- 5 Do you think it's important to travel and see new places? Why / Why not?
- 6 Which countries would you like to visit? Why?

Reading Comprehension

- 2 Number these sentences in the order that they happen in Chapter 1.

- a ☐ Rat and Mole go on a boat.
- b ☐ Rat and Mole go to Rat's house.
- c ☐ Rat and Mole are in the water.
- d ☐ Rat and Mole visit Toad.
- e ☒ Mole meets Rat.
- f ☐ Rat and Mole have a picnic.

Reading and Writing **MOVERS**

3 Choose the correct word(s) for each sentence.

Mole's house is very dirty .

clean ~~dirty~~ in a tree

1 It's _____ outside.

cold rainy warm

2 Rat has got _____ .

big ears a white face thick hair

3 Rat _____ the river

likes don't like like

4 Rat and Mole have a picnic on the _____ .

boat grass river

5 Mole wants _____ Toad.

meet to meet meeting

Before-reading Activities

Speaking

4 The next chapter is called 'The Wild Wood'. Why do you think that this is the title?

Listening

3 5 Look at the last words of Chapter 1 again.

'Did you say the words 'We' and 'Leave' and 'This Afternoon?'
Did Rat, Mole and Toad leave?

Listen to the first part of Chapter 2 to hear the answer.