

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

Our English work for the new few weeks will be based on this classic children's story since it links well with our main topic on rivers. You may have read the story - there are lots of different versions - or you may have seen a film or theatre production.

Task 1: Listen to a BBC version of the first part of the story being read aloud by Bernard Cribbins.

It is Episode 1 and is called *The River Bank*.

As the story is read, FOLLOW THE TEXT carefully.

I suggest you listen to the episode several times (with a break in between!) as you will pick up different bits of the story each time and it will help you to be really familiar with it.

Links to both the audio and the text are on the Home Learning page.

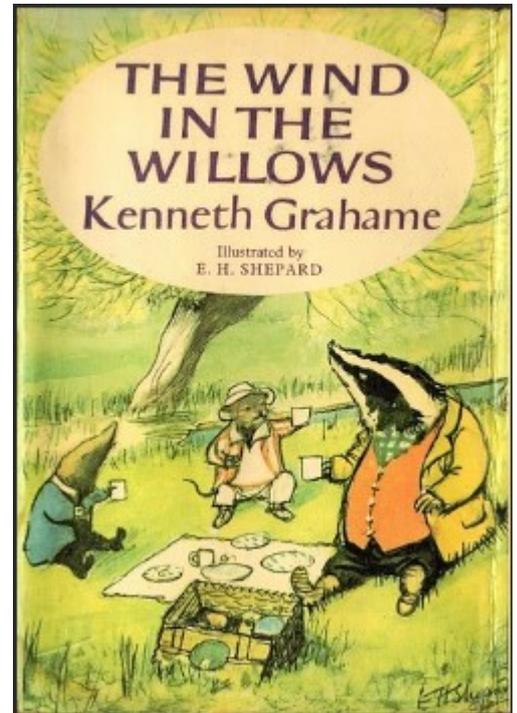
Task 2: Comprehension Part 1

Read/Listen to the BBC version of the first part of the story again, and then answer the following questions in your Home Learning Book.

- 1) Which animals are mentioned in this section of the story? Make a list.
- 2) Of these, who are the main characters so far?
- 3) What had Mole been doing in his home all morning that made him so tired?
- 4) When Mole explored the meadow and hedgerow, he saw some signs of spring. What were they?
- 5) Why was Mole so amazed when he arrived at the river?
- 6) Where was Rat when Mole first noticed him?
- 7) Rat came across the river to meet Mole in a boat. What two colours did Mole see on the boat?
- 8) 'What?' cried the Rat, open-mouthed: 'Never been in a - you never - well I - what have you been doing, then?'

Why is Rat described as being *open-mouthed*?

- 9) List, using commas, the food and drink that Rat says is in the picnic basket. Why do you think the list in the text was written without commas or even spaces?
- 10) When talking about the river, Rat describes it as 'his world'. What does he mean?

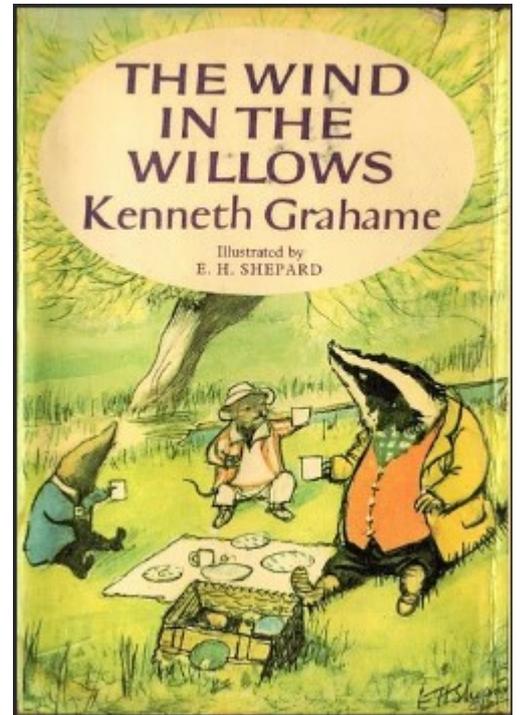


The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame - Sheet 2

Task 3: Comprehension Part 2

Read/Listen to the BBC version of the first part of the story again, and then answer the following questions in your Home Learning Book.

- 1) When Mole asks who lives in the Wild Wood, Rat warns him that 3 types of animals there can't be trusted. Which animals?
- 2) What are Rat and Mole doing when Otter appears?
- 3) Based on what we know so far, would you describe Badger as a friendly character? Why or why not?
- 4) Who else is out on the river in a boat today? What do Rat and Otter think about that, and why?
- 5) On their return journey, Mole wants to have a go at rowing the boat. Why does Rat refuse to let him?
- 6) Mole gets his way and starts to row the boat, but what happens next?
- 7) How does Rat feel when Mole causes the boat to tip over?
- 8) What does Rat offer to do for Mole, to help him get used to the river?
- 9) What did Rat do to help Mole warm up after they had returned home?
- 10) How do you think Mole felt at the end of his adventurous day, and why?



Year 3s only: Three of your own questions

Now, can you look at the text and invent your own comprehension questions to ask about it? Remember, it must be possible to find the answer to your questions in the text! Using words like When, What, Who, Where, Why and How to start your questions may help.

Write down 3 questions, and then ask someone else to search the text for the answer. Were they correct? Write down the answers too.

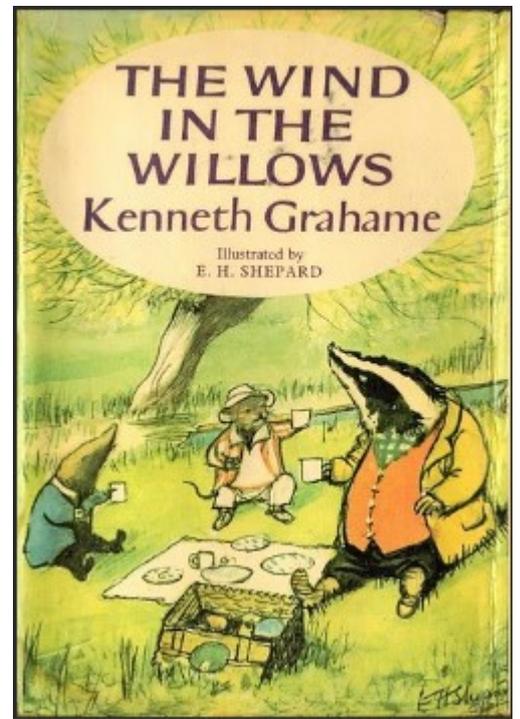
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Task 4: Vocabulary

Look at the following phrases extracted from the text.

Can you find an alternative word or phrase for the part in *italics* that means the same thing?

To fully understand the meaning, it is important to look back to see how the word or phrase is used in the original text.



a *pail* of whitewash

a _____ of whitewash

an aching back and *weary* arms

an aching back and _____
arms

he *rambled* busily

he _____ busily

As he *gazed*

As he _____

The Rat *stooped* and *unfastened* a rope and *hailed* on it

The Rat _____ and
_____ a rope and
_____ on it

Rat rowed *smartly* across

Rat rowed _____ across

struck the bank *full tilt*

struck the bank _____

enquired the Rat

_____ the Rat

these little *excursions*

these little _____

made her fast

You'll need a whole new phrase for this one!

Task 5

Choose one scene from this part of the story and draw it IN DETAIL, making use of the description in the text. Use the sheet on the next page. At the top, write 2-3 sentences to describe the scene. These sentence starters may help:

I have drawn the moment when.....

In my picture, you can see.....

Mole is.... / Rat is.....

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Task 5: A Scene from *The River Bank*

