

Classic Literature: The Wind in the Willows

The Wind in the Willows was written by Kenneth Grahame in 1908. It is the story of the adventures of Mole, Rat, and Toad in England. In the passage from the book below, the three friends have gone on a camping trip.

The Wind in the Willows

Chapter II: The Open Road



Late in the evening, tired and happy and miles from home, they drew up on a remote common far from habitations, turned the horse loose to graze, and ate their simple supper sitting on the grass by the side of the cart. Toad talked big about all he was going to do in the days to come, while stars grew fuller and larger all around them, and a yellow moon, appearing suddenly and silently from nowhere in particular, came to keep them company and listen to their talk. At last they turned in to their little bunks in the cart; and Toad, kicking out his legs, sleepily said, “Well, good night, you fellows! This is the real life for a gentleman! Talk about your old river!”

“I don’t talk about my river,” replied the patient Rat. “You know I don’t, Toad. But I think about it,” he added pathetically, in a lower tone: “I think about it—all the time!”

The Mole reached out from under his blanket, felt for the Rat’s paw in the darkness, and gave it a squeeze. “I’ll do whatever you like, Ratty,” he whispered. “Shall we run away tomorrow morning, quite early—very early—and go back to our dear old hole on the river?”

“No, no, we’ll see it out,” whispered back the Rat. “Thanks awfully, but I ought to stick by Toad till this trip is ended. It wouldn’t be safe for him to be left to himself. It won’t take very long. His fads never do. Good night!”

The end was indeed nearer than even the Rat suspected.

After so much open air and excitement the Toad slept very soundly, and no amount of shaking could rouse him out of bed next morning. So the Mole and Rat turned to, quietly and manfully, and while the Rat saw to the horse, and lit a fire, and cleaned last night’s cups and platters, and got things ready for breakfast, the Mole trudged off to the nearest village, a long way off, for milk and eggs and various necessaries the Toad had, of course, forgotten to provide. The hard work had all been done, and the two animals were resting, thoroughly exhausted, by the time Toad appeared on the scene, fresh and gay, remarking what a pleasant, easy life it was they were all leading now, after the cares and worries and fatigues of housekeeping at home.

They had a pleasant ramble that day over grassy downs and along narrow by-lanes, and camped, as before, on a common, only this time the two guests took care that Toad should do his fair share of work. In consequence, when the time came for starting next morning, Toad was by no means so rapturous about the simplicity of the primitive life, and indeed attempted to resume his place in his bunk, whence he was hauled by force. Their way lay, as before, across country by narrow lanes, and it was not till the afternoon that they came out on the high-road, their first high-road; and there disaster, fleet and unforeseen, sprang out on them—disaster momentous indeed to their expedition, but simply overwhelming in its effect on the after career of Toad.





The Wind in the Willows: Do You Understand?

I. Who Was It?

The passage has three characters: Mole, Rat, and Toad. Write the the correct character for each event below.

1. _____ Slept late the first morning
2. _____ Cleaned the cups and platters
3. _____ Talked big about what he was going to do
4. _____ Offered to run away
5. _____ Got pulled out of his bunk

II. Short Answer: Do You Know Why?

Answer each question below.

1. Why did Rat think about the river all the time?

2. Why did Toad change his mind and was not so happy about camping anymore?

3. Why did Rat tell Mole that he would continue on the camping trip?





Name: _____

The Wind in the Willows: Understanding the Words

I. Vocabulary Match

Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B

Column A

- _____ common
- _____ graze
- _____ rouse
- _____ fatigues
- _____ rapturous
- _____ fleet
- _____ momentous
- _____ habitations
- _____ expedition
- _____ ramble

Column B

- wake up
- a trip by a group of people
- quick
- places where people live
- walk in the country
- eat grass
- public land
- joyful
- being tired from activity
- something important

II. Looking at Root Words

Below are words from the passage. Each has a root word that can help you find the meaning of the word. The root word is listed next to the word from the passage. In the blank, write what you think the word from the passage means.

- simplicity simple _____
- unforeseen see _____
- pathetically pathetic _____
- necessaries necessary _____

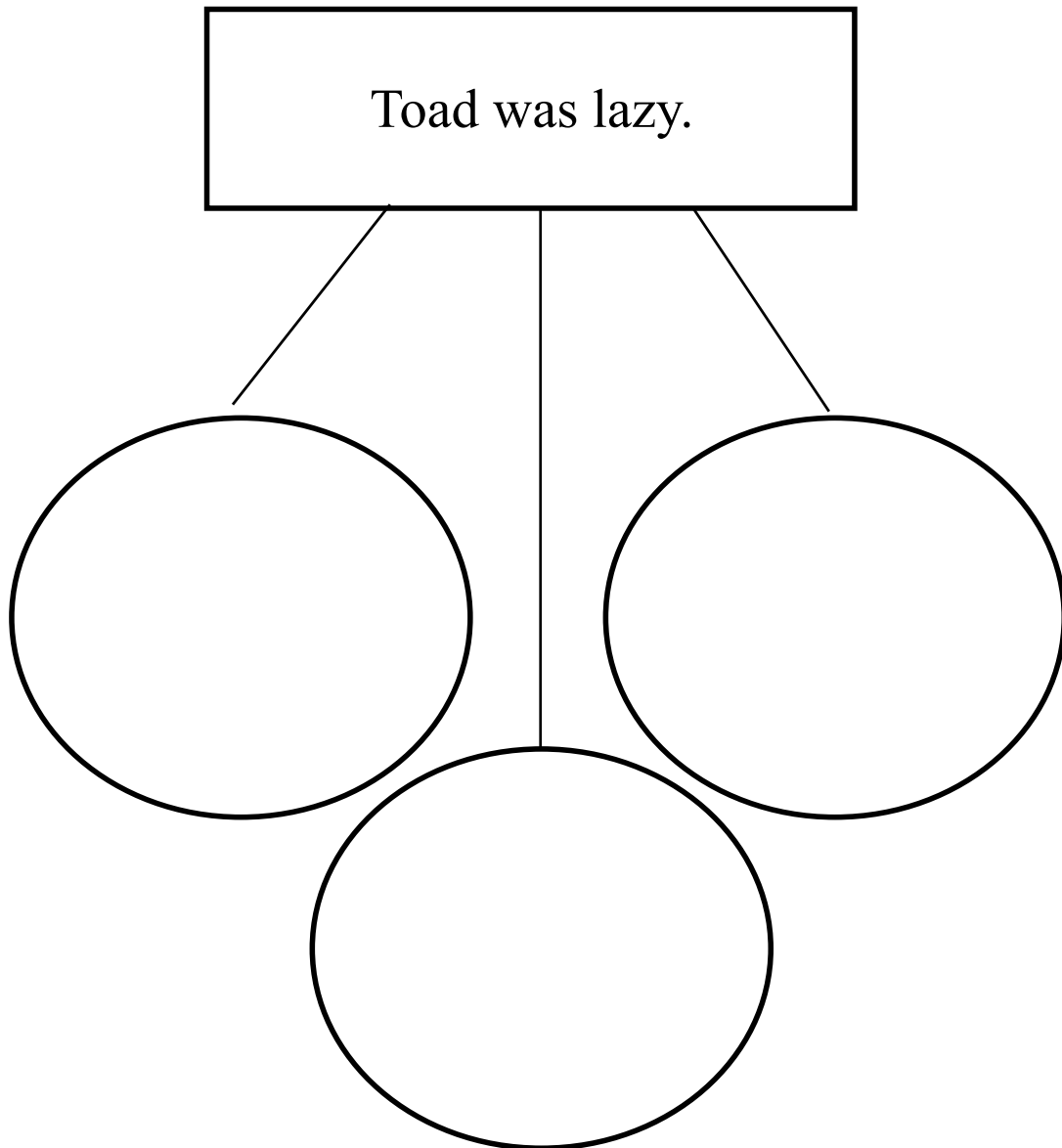


Name: _____



The Wind in the Willows: Find the Supporting Evidence

Below is one of the main ideas of the passage. Find three examples from the text that supports this main idea.





Name: _____

The Wind in the Willows: Going Camping

Who would you rather go camping with: Toad, Rat, or Mole? Why would you pick him? Who would you not want to go camping with? Why not?



Name: _____

Fun With Words: The Wind in the Willows Word Search

Circle each word from the list in the puzzle. The words can go in any direction.

H	F	E	O	A	Q	F	M	D	O	R	C	E
F	A	A	D	I	S	A	S	T	E	R	O	U
O	N	B	R	R	F	D	R	T	L	N	M	I
N	H	O	I	O	W	S	L	O	O	B	M	K
V	D	P	Q	T	H	C	R	A	T	K	O	K
C	C	C	I	M	A	P	E	D	B	U	N	K
A	D	A	M	U	Y	T	Z	B	U	S	K	H
M	K	M	O	Z	Q	F	I	N	F	M	H	J
P	L	L	L	M	A	R	E	O	N	B	H	R
E	X	P	E	D	I	T	I	O	N	S	N	I
D	N	D	J	R	Y	O	Q	S	A	S	D	V
Q	K	M	R	Z	Q	F	O	N	F	M	H	E
H	O	U	S	E	K	E	E	P	I	N	G	R

BUNK
CAMPED
COMMON

DISASTER
EXPEDITION
FADS

HABITATIONS
HOUSEKEEPING
MOLE

RAT
RIVER
TOAD

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2. **Rat** _____ Cleaned the cups and platters
3. **Toad** _____ Talked big about what he was going to do
4. **Mole** _____ Offered to run away
5. **Toad** _____ Got pulled out of his bunk

II. Short Answer: Do You Know Why?

Answer each question below.

Actual student's answers will vary. Correct answers should include references to:

1. Why did Rat think about the river all the time?

He was homesick.

2. Why did Toad change his mind and was not so happy about camping anymore?

He had to do chores.

3. Why did Rat tell Mole that he would continue on the camping trip?

He didn't think Toad would be safe by himself.



Name: _____

KEY

The Wind in the Willows: Understanding the Words

I. Vocabulary Match

Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B

Column A

1. _____ **G** _____ common
2. _____ **F** _____ graze
3. _____ **A** _____ rouse
4. _____ **I** _____ fatigues
5. _____ **H** _____ rapturous
6. _____ **C** _____ fleet
7. _____ **J** _____ momentous
8. _____ **D** _____ habitations
9. _____ **B** _____ expedition
10. _____ **E** _____ ramble

Column B

- A. wake up
- B. a trip by a group of people
- C. quick
- D. places where people live
- E. walk in the country
- F. eat grass
- G. public land
- H. joyful
- I. being tired from activity
- J. something important

II. Looking at Root Words

Below are words from the passage. Each has a root word that can help you find the meaning of the word. The root word is listed next to the word from the passage. In the blank, write what you think the word from the passage means.

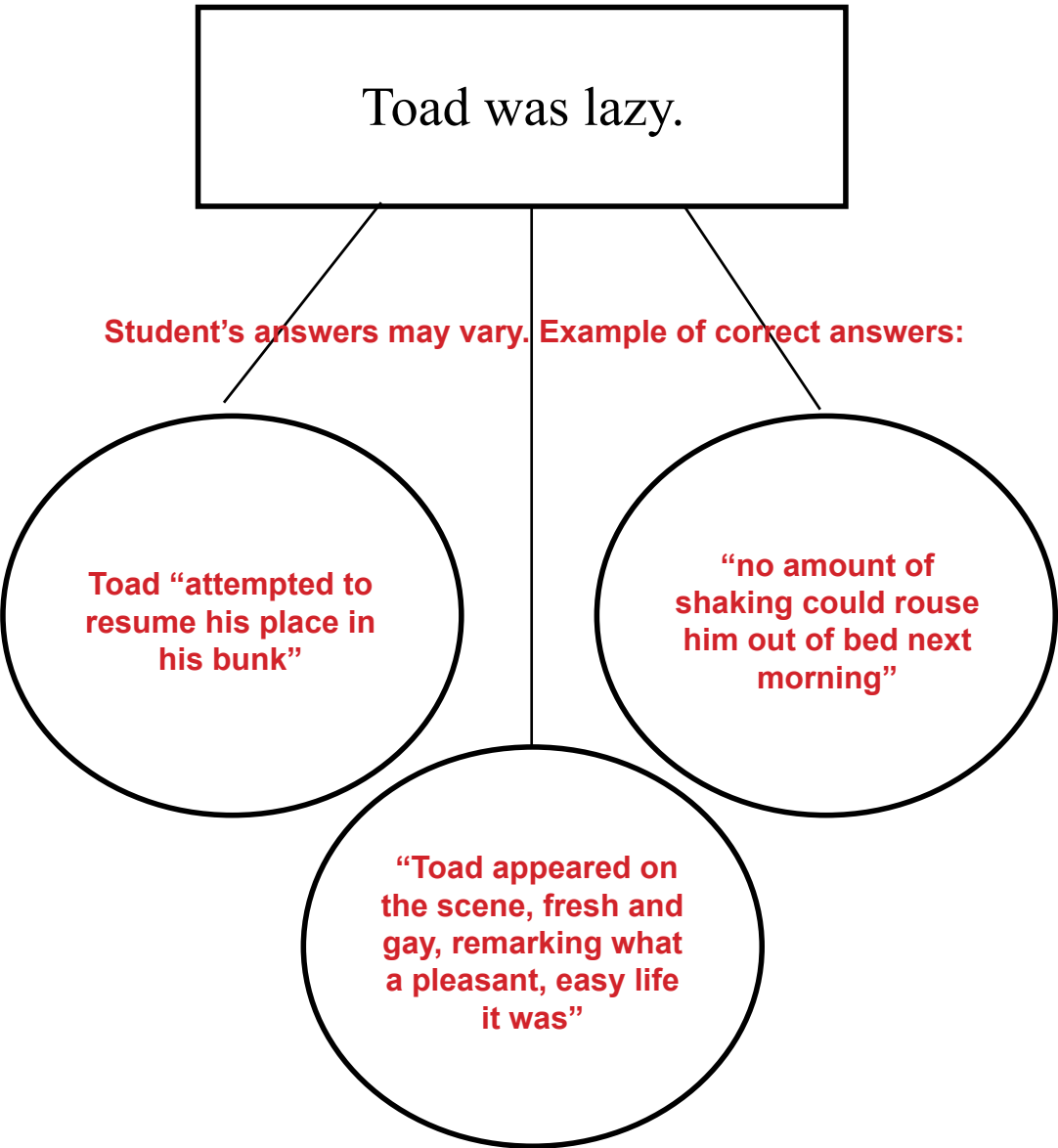
Student's answers will vary. Example of correct answers.

1. simplicity simple **plain**
2. unforeseen see **not seen before**
3. pathetically pathetic **in a sad way**
4. necessities necessary **things that are important**



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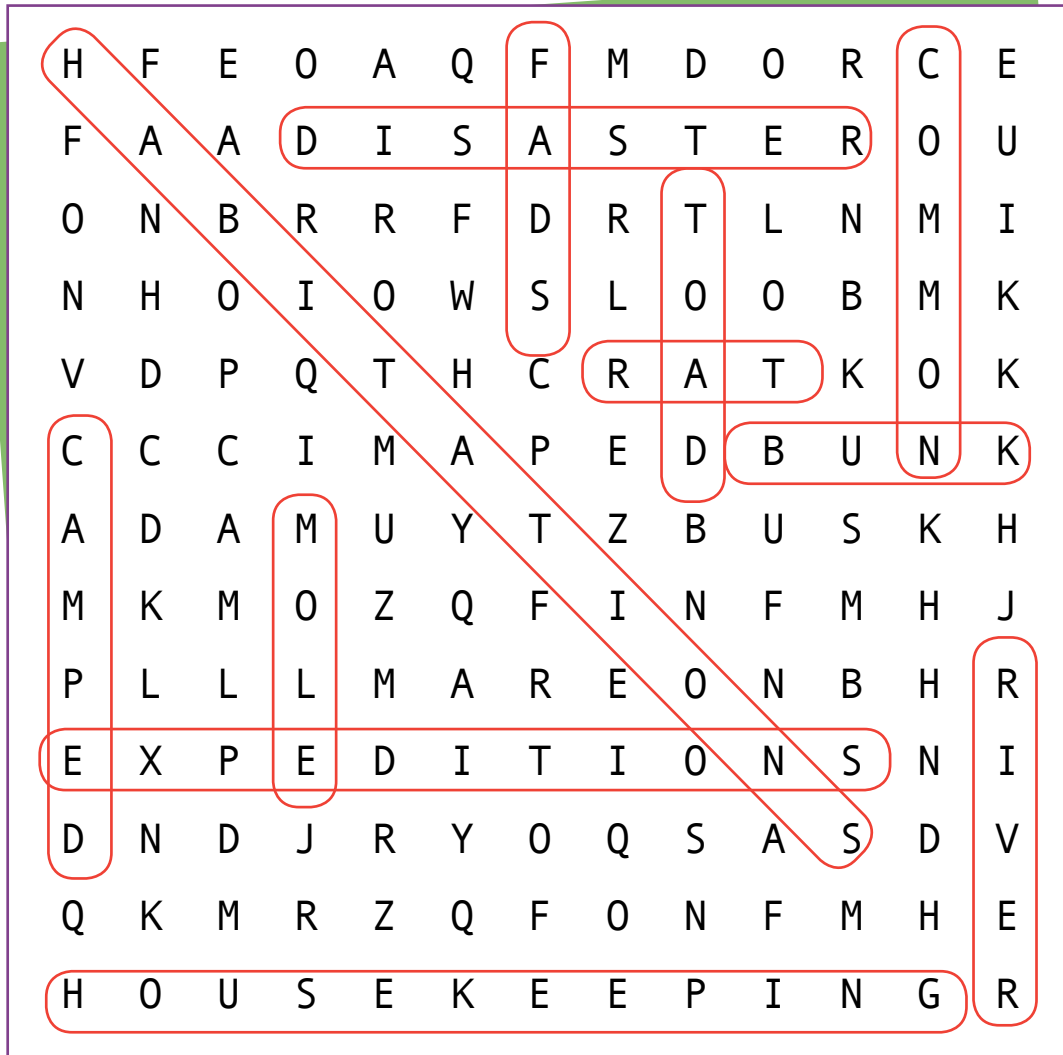


Name: _____

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