



Text:  
Wind in the Willows  
by Kenneth Grahame



<b>Plot:</b> (to support the teaching sequence)	<p><i>The Wind in the Willows</i> is a children's novel by Kenneth Grahame about the adventures of four animal friends: Mole, Rat, Badger, and the impulsive Mr. Toad. The story begins when Mole leaves his underground home to explore the riverbank, where he meets Ratty and they embark on many adventures, often dealing with Toad's irresponsible behaviour, such as his obsession with motorcars which leads to him being jailed and his home, Toad Hall, being taken over by weasels. With the help of his friends, Toad eventually regains control of his home, and the novel concludes with the community celebrating their friendship and courage</p>		
<b>Genre:</b>	Fantasy/Adventure	<b>Tense:</b>	Past
<b>Structure:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Episodic:</b> The book is organized into a series of episodes or chapters, each of which is often a complete, though small, story in itself.</li> <li>• <b>Character-focused:</b> Each chapter frequently focuses on one or more of the four main characters and their distinct personalities and pursuits.</li> <li>• <b>Friendship-driven:</b> The structure is guided by the relationships between the characters, particularly the enduring friendship between Mole, Rat, Badger, and Toad.</li> <li>• <b>Thematic and thematic development:</b> The novel follows two main themes: the simple and idyllic life by the river and the chaotic and adventurous life of Toad, and how these two worlds interact.</li> <li>• <b>Clear narrative arc:</b> The novel has a clear beginning, middle, and end, which is centered around the main plot of Toad's recklessness and the other animals helping him to protect and restore his home.</li> <li>• <b>Structural climax:</b> The novel reaches its structural climax in the "battle for Toad Hall," where the animals defend the home from the weasels.</li> <li>• <b>Resolution:</b> The novel resolves with the restoration of Toad's home and the return of the friends to the riverbank for their quiet and tranquil life</li> </ul>	<b>Theme/s:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Loyalty and camaraderie:</b> The novel emphasizes the bonds between Mole, Ratty, Badger, and Toad, showcasing loyalty and forgiveness, especially when helping Toad through his repeated troubles.</li> <li>• <b>Mentorship:</b> The relationship between Mole and Ratty initially features Ratty mentoring the inexperienced Mole, with their friendship later shifting to a more equal footing.</li> <li>• <b>The allure of the outside world:</b> The characters are tempted by adventure and the excitement of the "Wild Wood" or motorcars.</li> <li>• <b>The comfort of home:</b> Despite the excitement, the story ultimately celebrates the peace and security of a comfortable home, particularly along the riverbank.</li> <li>• <b>Personal growth:</b> Characters learn valuable lessons through their adventures, leading to self-discovery and a greater appreciation for their relationships and homes.</li> </ul>

<b>Familiarity of content:</b>	The Wind in the Willows is set in an idealized English countryside that reflects the Edwardian era, roughly the years just before its 1908 publication. The story captures a sense of rural life and nostalgia for a pre-industrial England, while also featuring new technology like motorcars.	<b>Perspective :</b>	<i>The Wind in the Willows</i> is written from a third-person point of view, which allows the narrator to access the thoughts and feelings of all the characters. This perspective creates an impartial, all-seeing audience for the story, enabling readers to understand each character's emotions and motivations as the plot unfolds and moves between them. This technique also allows the narrator to provide background information to the reader, such as the significance of Badger visiting Mole and Rat's house, which adds humour and depth to the narrative.
<b>Other language choices:</b>	<i>The Wind in the Willows</i> features a mix of sophisticated and simple language, with its style being a blend of Edwardian English and a more descriptive, figurative prose. Key language choices include a rich use of personification, metaphor, and imagery to bring the animal characters and their world to life, alongside sophisticated vocabulary and complex sentence structures.	<b>Background Knowledge:</b>	The novel's roots are in a series of letters Grahame wrote to his son, Alastair ("Mouse"), who was often ill. Grahame was inspired by these stories to write the full book, which was published in 1908. The character of the impulsive Mr. Toad was largely inspired by Alastair.
<b>Tier 2 &amp; 3 Vocabulary :</b>	<p><b>Mirth:</b> Great merriment or amusement.</p> <p><b>Repast:</b> The food served and eaten at one time.</p> <p><b>Perky:</b> Characterized by liveliness and light-heartedness.</p> <p><b>Somnolence:</b> A very sleepy state.</p> <p><b>Faint-hearted:</b> Lacking conviction or boldness or courage.</p> <p><b>Plaintive:</b> Expressing sorrow; mournful.</p> <p><b>Reproachful:</b> Expressing disapproval, blame, or disappointment.</p> <p><b>Asunder:</b> Into parts or pieces.</p> <p><b>Submissive:</b> Inclined or willing to give in to the orders or wishes of others.</p> <p><b>Toilsome:</b> Requiring much work, exertion, or perseverance.</p> <p><b>Beguile:</b> To charm or enchant; to deceive.</p> <p><b>Dismally:</b> In a gloomy, depressing, or cheerless way.</p> <p><b>Capricious:</b> Subject to, led by, or indicative of a sudden, unpredictable change.</p> <p><b>Penitent:</b> Feeling or showing sorrow and regret for what one has done or said.</p> <p><b>Crestfallen:</b> Sad and disappointed.</p>	<b>Diversity:</b>	<p><b>Class and character:</b> The book features a diverse cast of characters with different social standings and personalities, such as the wealthy but irresponsible Toad, the kind and reclusive Badger, the home-loving Mole, and the social and free-spirited Ratty.</p> <p><b>Contrasting personalities:</b> The dynamic between characters like Ratty and Mole highlights the value of both caution and adventure, with each character influencing the other to be their better self.</p>
<b>Media &amp; other links:</b>	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khtJrxqPSPM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khtJrxqPSPM</a> – WITW Full Film <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFT3bwH37RY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFT3bwH37RY</a> – WITW Musical	<b>Links to previous texts:</b>	Charlotte's Web – set in a similar context of the countryside. Stig of the Dump – the concept/theme of friendship blossoming between unlikely people.