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HOME, SWEET HOME

Home is one of the strongest themes in literature. Home means family and friendship, but it also means safety and protection. It is a place where we feel love. But it can also be a place we need to leave.

- **comfortable:** where one can relax
- **contrast:** big difference
- **den:** home of some animals
- **literature:** written works (poems, plays, and novels, etc.)
- **mixture:** number of things together
- **morality:** ideas about what is right and wrong
- **protection:** state of being guarded from danger
- **safety:** state of being safe from danger
- **themes:** most important ideas
- **whether:** (here) if

House or home?

What is the difference between *house* and *home*? Do they have the same word in your language?

Experts believe that one of the differences between literature for adults and literature for children is how they talk about the theme of home. In children's books, home is a special place, a place where it is safe to stay, or it is good to return to. In contrast, in adult's books, home is often a place to escape from in order to grow up or find happiness. From this point of view, *The Wind in the Willows* is a perfect example of literature for children.

Home is a very important theme for Grahame, too. In his novel, which is a mixture of adventure, morality, and friendship, there is always a sense of peace when the characters' homes are described.

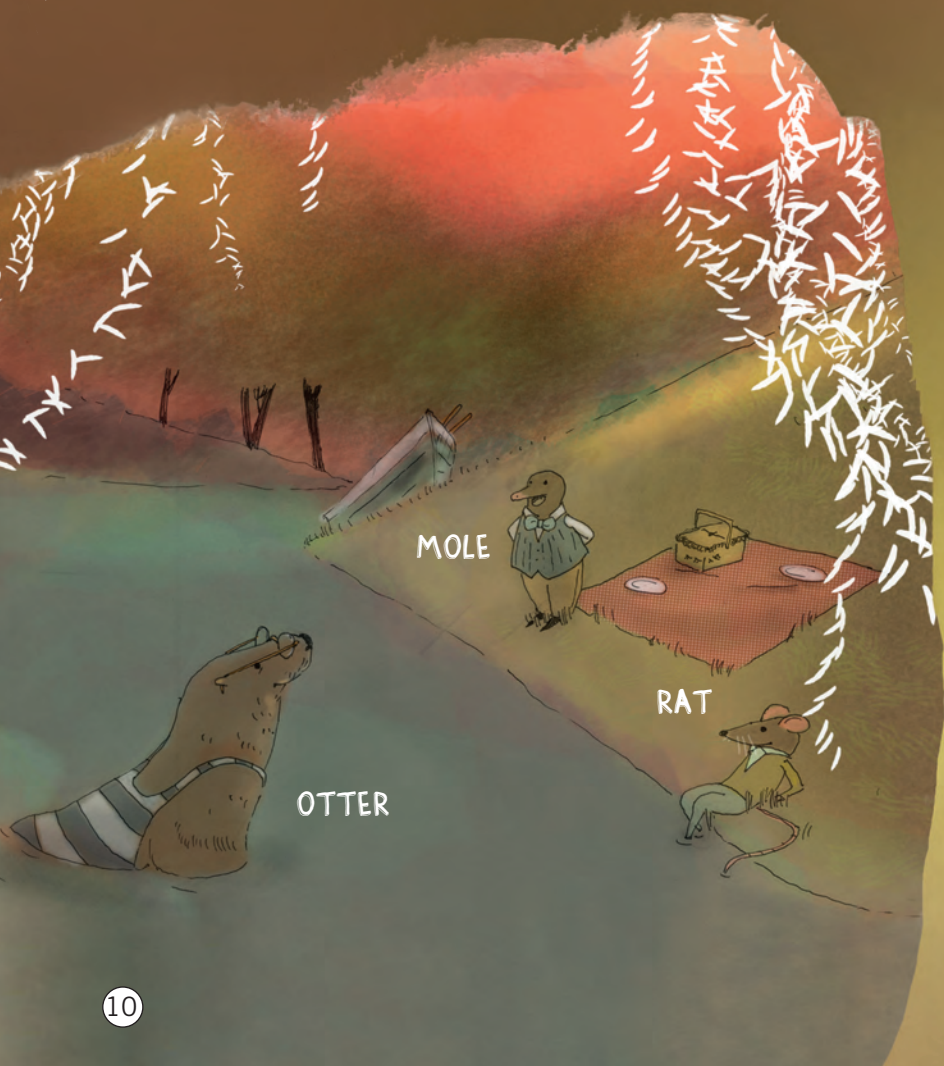
For example, when Mole and Rat are lost in the woods, Badger appears, welcoming them into his warm and comfortable home. And why do the four friends fight against the stouts and weasels? To win back Toad's home from the forest enemies! In the same way, there is sharp contrast between the descriptions of the safe warm homes and the dark and dangerous Wild Wood.

Home, whether it's Mole's underground house, Rat's riverbank, Badger's den in the woods, or the beautiful Toad Hall, is where the characters want to be at the end of the day.

DID YOU KNOW?

The setting of *The Wind in the Willows* is Quarry Wood in Berkshire, near the author's house in Cookham Dean. The river is the River Thames.

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS



MOLE

RAT

OTTER

THE GUARD'S
DAUGHTER



THE TRAIN
DRIVER



THE
GIPSY



THE BOAT
WOMAN



THE STOATS
AND WEASELS



TOAD



BADGER



BEFORE READING

1 Read the sentences and label the pictures: Badger, Mole, Toad or Rat.

- a Badger is a big animal. He is black and white.
- b Toad is short and fat. He is green.
- c Rat is brown and has whiskers, small ears, and a long nose.
- d Mole is small. He has black fur.



 2 Listen and check your answers.

3 Circle the correct word in these sentences.

- a Badger is black and **green** / **white**.
- b Rat has small **ears** / **whiskers**.
- c Mole has **green** / **black** fur.
- d Toad is short and **fat** / **black**.



 **4** Listen and match the animals to their homes. Write the name next to the correct home.



A



B



C




D

5 Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Tick (✓).

- | | T | F |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a Toad lives in the Wild Wood. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b Rat lives in a hole near the river. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c Badger lives in Toad Hall. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d Mole lives in a little house underground. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



① ON THE RIVER

 It's spring. Mole is very busy•. He is cleaning• his house. Mole's house is underground•. It is very dark•.

Suddenly Mole throws his cleaning things on the floor.

'What am I doing?' he says. 'Spring is here! I can go outside!'

Mole runs out of the house and starts to dig•.

'Up! Up!' he says. He digs and digs. He digs up, up, up through the earth. Suddenly, pop! His little nose comes out into the sun.

He is in a big field•. The grass is warm. The sun is warm. Mole rolls• in the grass. His fur• is warm now, too.

'This is great!' he says. 'I love spring!'

Mole walks through the fields. He sees flowers and new green leaves on the trees.

He sees lots of animals, too. Birds are making nests. Rabbits are cleaning. They are all busy because it is spring.

Mole walks and walks. He is happy to be outside, and he walks far away from his home. He comes to a river. He stops and looks. Rivers are a new thing for Mole. He looks again at the water. Suddenly he sees a small face on the opposite side of the water. The face has whiskers• and small ears, and a nose. It's a water rat. His name is Rat.

GLOSSARY

- **busy:** with a lot to do
- **cleaning:** taking dirt away
- **dark:** black
- **dig:** move the earth away
- **field:** big area of grass in the country
- **fur:** hair on body of an animal
- **rolls:** lies down and moves from side to side
- **underground:** under the earth
- **whiskers:** long hairs on an animal's nose

1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

broken matter dressing path brave
gloves popular boring

- a** When Badger answers the door, he is wearing a gown.
- b** Mole is, he is not afraid to get in the boat.
- c** After the crash, the caravan is and doesn't work anymore.
- d** 'You look sad. What's the ?'
- e** After only one day, Toad thinks that caravans are

2 Create three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.**3 Choose the correct prepositions from the box to complete the sentences.**

of from about through on to in

- a** 'I am the famous Mr Toad and I am escaping prison!'
- b** A gipsy is cooking stew a fire.
- c** 'Poor Toad! In prison for twenty years! Because a car!'
- d** As Toad walks the fields he says: 'I am a very clever toad!'
- e** 'I want to tell you my adventures.'
- f** There are two men the big blue car.
- g** The passage leads into a cupboard next the party.

