

Unit
8

The Wind in the Willows

The Mole, who had been busily spring-cleaning his house, had come out for a rest ...

As he sat on the grass and looked across the river, a dark hole in the bank opposite, just above the water's edge, caught his eye. Something bright and small seemed to twinkle down in the heart of it, vanish, then twinkle once more like a tiny star. But it could hardly be a star in such an unlikely situation, and it was too glittering and small for a glow-worm. Then, as he looked, it winked at him, and so declared itself to be an eye, and a small face began gradually to grow up round it, like a frame round a picture.

A brown little face, with whiskers.

A grave round face, with the same twinkle in its eye that had first attracted his notice.

Small neat ears and thick silky hair.

It was the Water Rat!



The Rat said nothing, but stooped and unfastened a rope and hauled on it, then lightly stepped into a little boat which the Mole had not observed. It was painted blue outside and white within, and was just the size for two animals, and the Mole's whole heart went out to it at once, even though he did not yet fully understand its uses.

The Rat sculled smartly across and made fast. Then he held up his fore-paw as the Mole stepped gingerly down. "Lean on that!" he said. "Now then, step lively!" and the Mole to his surprise and rapture found himself actually seated in the stern of a real boat.

"This has been a wonderful day!" said he, as the Rat shoved off and took to the sculls again.

"Do you know, I've never been in a boat before in all my life."



Do you remember?

Write three sentences about the story using words from each column.

Who?

The Mole
The Rat
The Rat

Did what?

came
sat
sculled

Where?

across the river.
out of his hole.
on the grass.

More to think about

1. Read these sentences about the story.

Write 'true' or 'not true' for each one.

- The Mole lived by the river.
- He saw a glow-worm.
- He could see the Water Rat on the opposite bank.
- The Rat swam across the river to see him.
- The Rat had a boat.
- The boat was painted blue and white.

2. Write a sentence to answer each question.

- How did the Mole know the twinkle he saw on the opposite bank was not a star?
- Was the Rat's boat large or small?
- What words tell us that the Mole was excited when he first saw the boat?
- Why was the Mole rather unsure about getting into the Rat's boat?



Now try these

1. What words does the author use:

- to describe the Rat's face?
- to describe how the Rat brought the boat across the river?
- to describe how the Mole got into the boat?

2. Think back to when you did something for the first time, and describe your feelings. Were you frightened or excited, or a bit of both? What other feelings did you have?