



STORY SPECULATIONS



Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

Give out one sentence per child. Using the Voice 21 groupings of 'Onion' or 'Traverse', each child reads their sentence to the child opposite them and spends one minute discussing the clues and what the story could be about. They could also just move around the class choosing other children at random. When they move on, they use the new and previous clues to guess the following aspects of the story, piecing together evidence to back up their theories. You may wish to use our 'Book Knowledge Organisers' to go through the book in more detail at the end if you or the children are unfamiliar with the story.

setting

characters

plot

genre



- 1.) The Mole had been working very hard all the morning, spring-cleaning his little home.
- 2.) It was too late. The boat struck the bank full tilt.
- 3.) Leaving the main stream, they now passed into what seemed at first sight like a little landlocked lake.
- 4.) Then a firm paw gripped him by the back of his neck.
- 5.) 'Toad is rather rich, you know, and this is really one of the nicest houses in these parts, though we never admit as much to Toad.'
- 6.) The Mole was tremendously interested and excited, and followed him eagerly up the steps and into the interior of the caravan.
- 7.) '...as soon as we get to the town, you'll have to go straight to the police-station, and see if they know anything about that motor-car and who it belongs to, and lodge a complaint against it.'
- 8.) 'Badger hates Society, and invitations, and dinner, and all that sort of thing.'
- 9.) He swung off the path and plunged into the untrodden places of the wood.



10.) There was the noise of a bolt shot back, and the door opened a few inches, enough to show a long snout and a pair of sleepy blinking eyes.

11.) 'Toad's rich, we all know; but he's not a millionaire. And he's a hopelessly bad driver, and quite regardless of law and order.

12.) 'Weren't you at all - er - nervous?' asked the Mole, some of yesterday's terror coming back to him at the mention of the Wild Wood.

13.) Well, very long ago, on the spot where the Wild Wood waves now, before ever it had planted itself and grown up to what it now is, there was a city - a city of people, you know.

14.) Animals arrived, liked the look of the place, took up their quarters, settled down, spread, and flourished.

15.) The result was not so very depressing after all, though of course it might have been better; a tin of sardines - a box of captain's biscuits, nearly full - and a German sausage encased in silver paper.

16.) 'You two animals will accompany me instantly to Toad Hall, and the work of rescue shall be accomplished.'

17.) 'Then you don't promise,' said the Badger, 'never to touch a motor-car again?'

18.) 'I wonder,' he said to himself presently, 'I wonder if this sort of car starts easily?'

19.) The rusty key creaked in the lock, the great door clanged behind them.

20.) 'Here, in this holy place, here if anywhere, surely we shall find Him!'

21.) The air of the narrow cell took on a rosy tinge; he began to think of his friends, and how they would surely be able to do something.

22.) 'Now tell the truth; what were you put in prison for?'

23.) An owl, swooping noiselessly towards him, brushed his shoulder with its wing, making him jump with the horrid certainty that it was a hand.



24.) Footsteps fell on his ear, and the figure of one that walked somewhat wearily came into view; and he saw that it was a Rat, and a very dusty one.

25.) ...his escape, his flight, his pursuit; remembered, first and best thing of all, that he was free!

26.) 'Let you steer?' replied the barge-woman, laughing. 'It takes some practice to steer a barge properly.'

27.) To one in such a situation, five shillings may very well appear a large sum of money. On the other hand, it did not seem very much to get for a horse.

28.) Toad went a little faster; then faster still, and faster.

29.) 'I've had enough of adventures. I shall lead a quiet, steady, respectable life, pottering about my property, and improving it, and doing a little landscape gardening at times.'

30.) The Badger had ordered everything of the best, and the banquet was a great success.