

The Wind in the Willows

Study Questions

Story Questions (answer while reading)

Chapter 1

1. Describe the Mole. How do you think he lived?
2. Describe the Rat and his life.

Chapter 2

1. What is Mr. Toad like? Is he likeable?
2. How do Rat and Mole each respond to Toad?
3. How is the cart like a boat? How is the road like a river?

Chapter 3

1. Why does Mole enjoy winter so much?
2. What is the "Terror of the Wild Wood"? Is it made up of animals or is it mythical?

Chapter 4

1. Describe Mr. Badger and his character?
2. What is Mr. Badger's house like?
3. Discuss in class: How is Badger's house like civilization? How is Mr. Badger (and all the other badgers for that matter) like absolute truth? (Think about the Badgers in the Chronicles of Narnia)

Chapter 5

1. Whose house does you like best: Rat's, Toad's, Badger's, or Mole's?
2. How does Rat act towards Mole?

Chapter 6

1. Describe Toad's insanity?
2. Discuss in class: How is Toad's addiction for motor cars and loss of reason similar to the decay of the Victorian Era.

Chapter 7

1. Note the reference to mythology here. Can you identify the Piper at the Gates of Dawn?

Chapter 8 and Chapter 10

1. The jail and everything around it seemed awful when Toad was being taken to it. How does a girl like the Jailer's daughter end up there or do you think the narration of the previous chapter concerning the jail was hyperbolic (over reacting)?
2. How does Toad act during his time in jail?
3. If you have read the Odyssey or know the story line, how is Toad like Odysseus (Ulysses)?
4. What is the significance of so many different officers of the law chasing Toad?

Chapter 9

1. How does Rat become like Toad in this chapter?
2. How does Mole (who formerly enjoyed doing Toad's wild plans) become like Rat?

Chapter 11

1. How is the takeover of Toad's house similar to the takeover of Odysseys' house?
2. How is the takeover of Toad's house similar to the decay of the Victorian era?
3. Rat and Toad both think they are very smart in their own way, but who turn out to be the real wise ones?

Chapter 12

1. How is Toad a comic paradox of Odysseus?
2. Toad's house was saved but is Toad saved from himself? How?

General Questions (answer after reading the whole book)

1. In what country does it take place? Does it happen in the country or the city?
2. What is the mood or atmosphere of the story? What words or phrases does the author use to describe the different locations in the story?
3. Would you want to live in the world the book presents, or does it repel you? Why?
4. Is the setting real or imaginary? How do the different characters of the story live? Do they live like you would think talking animals would live?
5. What era does the story take place in?

6. Who do think the main character (protagonist) is? Describe him: how does he live, how does he act, what is his character? Do you like him? Why?
7. What does the main character think is the most important thing in life? How do you know?
8. Can you relate to him at all?
9. Is there an antagonist? Is the antagonist a character, several characters, or does the protagonist struggling against himself?
10. Is(are) the antagonist(s) bad or are they working for the good of the main character?
11. What does the protagonist want the most? Is this thing he wants the most good for him?
12. Does he get what he wants? Is he changed any by the end of the story?
13. What is the main of the idea? Try to summarize it in at least two sentences?
14. How does the author draw you into the story? What about his writing does this? (will be discussed in class.)