



The Wind in the Willows



*Retold from the Kenneth Grahame original
by Martin Woodside*

Illustrated by Jamel Akib



STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS
New York

What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



Have you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places,

and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. All of the main characters in this book are animals. Why do you think this is? If you could be any kind of animal, what would you choose to be?

2. Toad changes his mind about the best way to travel every few days. Why do you think the car continues to fascinate him? What kinds of transportation have you used? Which was your favorite?

3. The Wild Wood seems friendly when the Mole first enters it, but he soon grows scared of everything around him. Do you think the woods are actually dangerous, or is it just his imagination? What's the scariest place you've ever been?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

4. The Badger seems very grumpy when the Rat and the Mole first arrive at his house, but his attitude quickly changes when he realizes who is at the door. Why do you suppose this is? Do you have any friends that you're always happy to see?

5. How does the Mole react when he smells his home? Why do you suppose this happens? Have you ever been homesick?

6. Toad says, "A worthy fellow, Ratty, with many good qualities, but very little intelligence." Do you agree? What do you think the Rat's best quality is? What's your best quality?

7. At one point in the story, the Rat and the Mole learn that the Otter's son is lost. How do you suppose this made the Otter feel? Have you ever been lost? How did you find your way home again?

8. Everyone Toad meets seems to want to help him. Why do you think this is? Have you ever known anyone like Toad?

9. When the Rat meets the seafaring rat, he is struck by an overwhelming desire to travel with him. Have you ever traveled? Where would you most like to visit?

10. Why does the Badger say that the Mole “managed excellently” by telling the stoats and weasels about the coming attack? Do you think the Mole did this on purpose, or did he accidentally do a good thing? Have you ever tricked someone to your advantage?