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PRE-GRAMMAR | Preparation

Prepare to think about the novel and its Central One Idea by drawing upon your prior knowledge, experience, or interests.

1. Think of a fable where an animal was the main character. What were some of the traits the animal was given, and how did those traits shape the story?

2. What kind of animal would you pick to represent yourself? What qualities does that animal have that represent you?

3. Make a list of people who have influenced your life – those who have taught or coached you. Choose one and tell what lessons you have learned from this person.

GRAMMAR | Presentation

LOGIC | Dialectic

In the Grammar section, discover essential facts, elements, and features of the novel through the Reading Notes, Words to Be Defined, and Comprehension Questions. In the Logic section, reason with the facts, elements, and features of the novel; invent, sort, arrange, compare, and connect ideas – and begin to uncover and determine the Central One Idea.

Chapter 1

READING NOTES

1. **Mole's hole** – Mole's secluded home underground
2. **hedgerows** – thick rows of bushes forming a hedge (a barrier or boundary)
3. **copses** – small groupings of trees
4. **bijou** – a beautiful jewel
5. **sculls** – a pair of oars used by a single rower
6. **River** – where the civilized animals such as Ratty, Otter, and Toad live; they call themselves "river-bankers"
7. **Wild Wood** – the world just past the River, where the animals can be friendly but are not to be trusted
8. **Wide World** – the outer world beyond the safety of the river bank; where the humans live
9. **weir** – a dam in a river, or a fence of broken branches or stakes put in a stream to catch fish
10. **punt** – to propel one's boat by using a pole against the river bottom

WORDS TO BE DEFINED

Definitions Bank

authoritatively

privacy

cellar; under

scorning; mocking

delicately; carefully

touched gently and affectionately

disdainful; disrespectful

unable to be filled or satisfied

liberated; freed

unplanned

1. Something up above was calling him **imperiously**

2. soft breezes **caressed** his heated brow

3. after the **seclusion** of the cellarage he had lived in

4. after the seclusion of the **cellarage** he had lived in

5. the impatient and **contemptuous** Mole

6. who trotted along the side of the hedge **chaffing** the other rabbits

7. the **insatiable** sea

8. the Mole stepped **gingerly** down

9. This was an **impromptu** affair

10. the **emancipated** Mole



Read Chapter 1, marking the text in key places according to the method taught in "How to Mark a Book."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where has Mole lived his life to this point? What causes him to leave his home?

2. Mole first encounters rabbits when he gets above ground. What do they demand, and how does Mole respond?

3. *He thought his happiness was complete when, as he meandered aimlessly along, suddenly he stood by the edge of a full-fed river. Never in his life had he seen a river before – this sleek, sinuous, full-bodied animal, chasing and chuckling, gripping things with a gurgle and leaving them with a laugh, to fling itself on fresh playmates that shook themselves free, and were caught and held again. All was a-shake and a-shiver – glints and gleams and sparkles, rustle and swirl, chatter and bubble.*

In this passage, Grahame uses many literary elements to help the reader understand how "The Mole was bewitched, entranced, fascinated" upon seeing the river for the first time. Give an example of each element from the passage:

a. Onomatopoeia: _____

b. Personification: _____

c. Alliteration: _____

d. Metaphor: _____

4. How is the Water Rat described when Mole first sees him?
