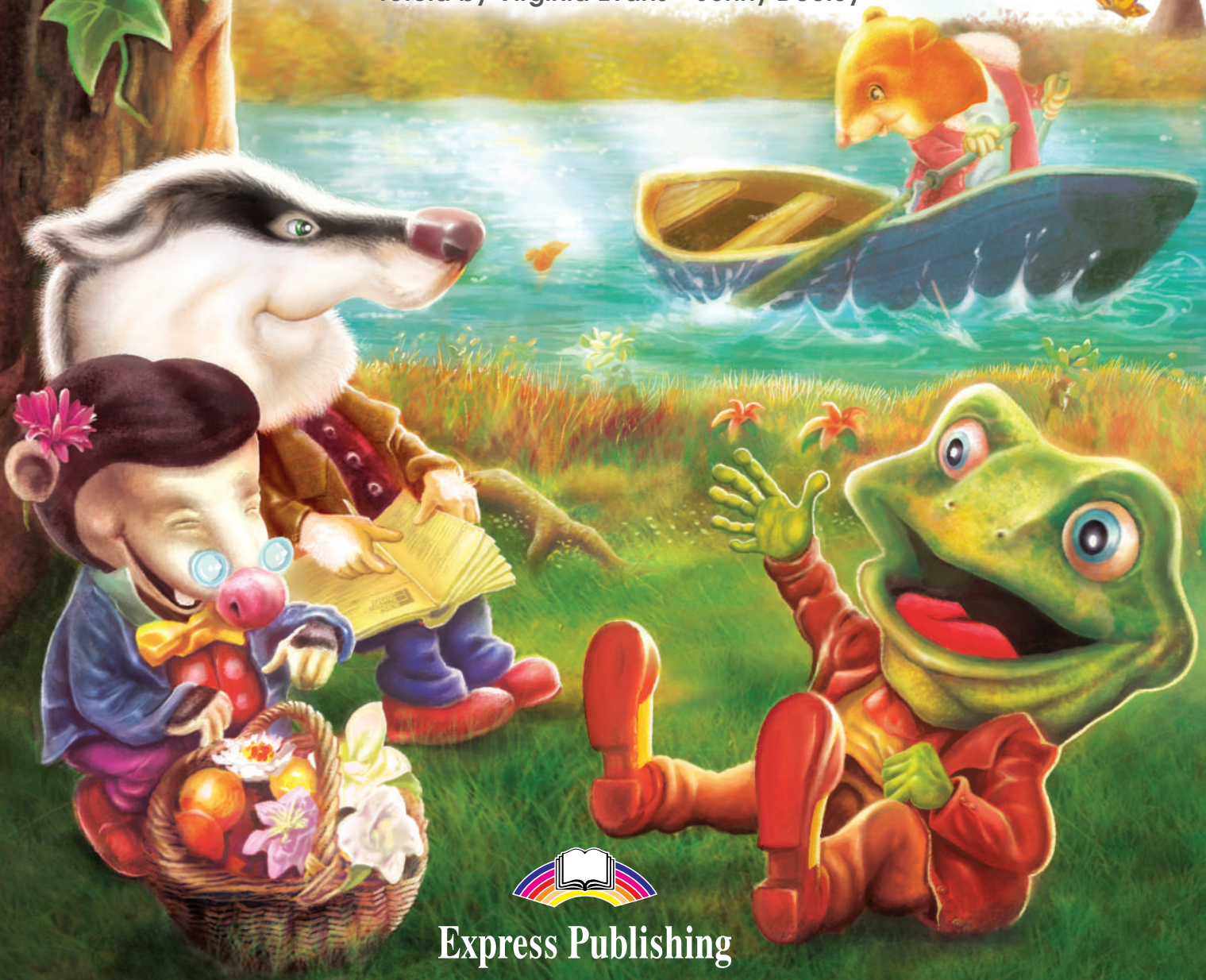




the Wind in the Willows

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retold by Virginia Evans - Jenny Dooley



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THE CHARACTERS



TOAD

... is a rather crazy animal. He has a lot of money but spends it on silly things. He loves adventure but always seems to get into trouble. Toad never thinks about things carefully and can be quite selfish, but he loves his friends.



BADGER

... is a very serious character. He doesn't really like spending time with other animals. All the other animals respect him but they are also afraid of him. However, Badger is very kind and brave and he is a great friend to Toad, Ratty and Mole.



MOLE

... is a shy and friendly animal. He loves life and is eager to try new things. He is pleased with everything that the world has to offer him and is always excited when opportunities for adventure arise.



RAT

... is a thoughtful dreamer. He is clever and kind. He loves the river and wants to spend all his time in his boat, having picnics by the water. He is quite sensible and wants to stop Toad from getting into trouble.



ALICE

... is a kind girl who loves animals. She helps Toad when he is sad and lonely in prison. She decides to help him because he is in trouble.

THE ENGINE DRIVER

... is a good man who always tries to help others. He feels sorry for Toad, so he tries to help him.



THE WEASELS

... are very greedy animals. They often steal things and treat people very badly. They don't care about others and enjoy scaring them. They often make a lot of noise and mess too.



• 1. The Riverbank •

It was spring, and Mole couldn't wait to leave his little underground house and go outside. He pushed his way up through the dark earth until he suddenly felt the sun on his face and the soft warm grass on his paws. He hurried across the field and along the hedges. Then he saw the river. It was Mole's first experience of water, and he sat and watched it in amazement. It was beautiful and it glittered and shone in the morning sun.

On the other side of the river there was a dark hole in the earth. Mole suddenly saw a small brown head appear out of the hole. It was Rat! The two animals stood and looked at each other.

"Hello, Mole!" said Rat.

"Hello, Rat!" said Mole.

"Would you like to come over here?" asked Rat.

Mole could not see how to get across. Rat bent down, untied a rope and stepped into a small, blue, wooden boat and quickly rowed across to Mole. He held up his paw and helped Mole into the boat. Mole could not believe what was happening.

"I've never been in a boat before in all my life," he said.

"What?" cried Rat. "Never? But, my dear Mole, there is nothing as nice as being in a boat!"

Mole believed his new friend. Rat rowed, and Mole sat and watched the water happily.

"So, this is a river," he said, after some time.

"THE River," said Rat.

"And you really live by the river? What a wonderful life!" said Mole.



"The river is my world," said Rat. "I never want to live anywhere else."

"But don't you get bored, with nobody to talk to?" asked Mole.

"Nobody to talk to?" cried Rat. "There are otters and ducks and all kinds of water birds!"

"And what's that over there?" asked Mole, pointing to some trees on one side of the river.

"That's the Wild Wood," said Rat. "I don't go there very much."

"Aren't they very nice people there?" asked Mole nervously.

"Well, some of the rabbits are kind," said Rat, "and there's also good old Badger. Nobody dares to bother him, though!"

"Who would bother him?" asked Mole.

"Well, there are other animals in the Wild Wood," said Rat, "like the weasels and stoats, and you can't really trust them."

"I see," said Mole. "And what's on the other side of the Wild Wood?"

"After the Wild Wood is the Wide World," said Rat, "but that is something that you and I don't need to worry about. Let's not talk about it again."

Just then, Mole saw a huge house near the river.

"What a wonderful house!" he said. "Who lives there?"

"That's Toad Hall," said Rat. "My friend Toad lives there. Let's go and say hello!"

Episode 3

Before Reading

- 1 Look at the title and the pictures. Where do you think Rat and Mole are? Why do you think they look surprised in the second picture?

While Reading

- 2 Read or listen to the episode and put the events in the correct order.

- Mole realised that he was lost.
- Mole wanted to rest.
- 1 Mole decided to go to the Wild Wood.
- Rat saw that there was snow everywhere.
- Rat realised that Mole was not at home.
- Mole curled up in a hole in a tree.
- Rat went to the wood to find Mole.
- Mole started to see faces in the wood.

After Reading

- 3 In pairs, discuss which of the words below best describe the way Mole feels:

- 1 when he first enters the Wild Wood.
 - 2 when he sees faces in the wood.
 - 3 when he gets lost.
 - 4 when Rat arrives.
- scared • lonely • happy
 - confused • excited • relieved

Episode 4

Before Reading

- 1 Look at the title and the pictures. Can you find ...?

- a bell • a bench • a clock • a lamp
- a blanket • a kettle • a fireplace

- 2 Look at the title and the pictures. What do you think Mole is doing in the first picture? What is Rat pointing to? Listen and read to find out.

While Reading

- 3 Read or listen to the episode and correct the words in bold in sentences 1-6.

- 1 The **wood** made everything look different.
- 2 Mole tripped on a **doormat**.
- 3 There was a **stick** next to the doorbell.
- 4 Toad has bought seven **houses**.
- 5 The animals decide to rest until **winter**.
- 6 There are underground **trains** from Badger's house to the riverbank.

After Reading

- 4 Discuss in pairs:

- Why does Rat laugh when he sees the shoe scraper?
- How do you think Badger feels when he hears about Toad?
- Why can't Badger help Toad now?
- Why do Rat and Mole believe that Toad will listen to Badger?
- What do you think is going to happen next?

Episode 5

Before Reading

- 1 Look at the pictures and answer the questions.
Where are the characters in the first picture?
What do you think Badger and Toad are talking about in the second picture?

While Reading

- 2 Read or listen to the episode. Who says what? Write *R* (for Rat), *M* (for Mole), *B* (for Badger), *T* (for Toad).

- 1 "You never visit anyone!"
- 2 "You're just in time to come for a ride!"
- 3 "You have been very foolish."
- 4 "I'm not sorry!"
- 5 "Now we have no choice."
- 6 "How long do you think it will take for Toad to forget about motor cars?"

After Reading

- 3 Answer the questions.
 - 1 Why are Mole and Rat so surprised to see Badger?
 - 2 Why does Toad tell Badger that he will be sensible?
 - 3 Why do Badger, Mole and Rat lock Toad in his bedroom?
 - 4 Do you think Toad will forget about motor cars? What do you think is going to happen in the next episode?

Episode 6

Before Reading

- 1 Look at the title and the pictures. What is Toad doing in the first picture? What is happening in the second picture?

While Reading

- 2 Read or listen to the episode and complete the text with the words in the list.

- turns • judge • inn • steals
- window • tired • die • plan

Badger, Rat and Mole take **1**) to watch Toad, but Toad thinks of a clever **2**) He tells Rat that he is ill and that he may **3**) Rat goes to fetch a doctor, and Toad climbs out of the **4**) He runs away from Toad Hall but he soon becomes **5**) He stops at an **6**) but, while he is eating, he sees a motor car. Toad **7**) the motor car but the police arrest him, and a **8**) sends him to prison.

After Reading

- 3 Discuss in pairs:
 - How does Toad trick Rat?
 - Do you think Toad is really a thief? Why do you think he stole the car?
 - How do you think Toad feels now that he is in prison?
 - What do you think is going to happen in the next episode?

Play

Characters: Mole
Rat
Toad
Badger
Weasels
Rabbit
Men (x2)
Police officers

Alice
Washerwoman
Ticket Clerk
Engine Driver
Hedgehog
Fox
Squirrel

Narrator(s)

Scene 1 – The Riverbank

SONG: The Wind in the Willows

There's no sweeter time than the springtime
When the winter comes to an end
When you come outside in the sunshine
And everyone is your friend

*CHORUS: Listen to the Wind in the Willows
What a peaceful, beautiful sound
When you hear the Wind in the Willows
Then you know that spring's around*

Spring is when we row on the river
As we watch the water go by
Spring is when we find new adventures
And so many new things to try

REPEAT CHORUS



Mole: What a lovely day!
Rat: Hello, Mole!
Mole: Hello, Rat!
Rat: Here, take my paw!
Mole: Oh, this is wonderful! I've never been in a boat before!
Rat: Never? There is nothing as nice as being in a boat.
Mole: Ahh ... (sigh) So, this is a river.
Rat: The river is my world. I never want to live anywhere else.
Mole: But don't you get bored with nobody to talk to?
Rat: Nobody to talk to? There are otters and ducks and even water birds!
Mole: Oh, I see. And what's that over there?
Rat: That's the Wild Wood. I don't go there very much.
Mole: Why?



Rat: Well, there are some nice rabbits there. And there's good old Badger. Nobody dares to bother him, though!

Mole: Who would bother him?

Rat: Well, you can't trust the weasels.

Mole: I see. And what's on the other side of the Wild Wood?

Rat: The Wide World. Let's not talk about that.

Mole: What a wonderful house! Who lives there?

Rat: That's Toad Hall. My friend Toad is very rich. Let's go and say hello!

Mole: Is Toad a nice animal?

Rat: Oh, he's nice but he's always got some silly ideas in his head.

Toad: Hello! I'm so glad you're here. Let's go on a long ride together in my caravan. We'll leave after lunch!

Rat: Excuse me, Toad, but did you say "WE" and "LEAVE" and "AFTER LUNCH"?

Toad: Yes! Please!

Rat: Oh, all right then! We'll all go.

Toad: Toad, Rat and Mole set off on a ride. They travelled until late in the afternoon when they came out on to the high road.

Rat: Can you hear that noise?

Mole: It sounds like a bee.

Rat: And there's a cloud of dust moving towards us!

Mole: Look out!

Rat: You villains! I'll report you to the police!

Mole: The caravan's broken. Oh, poor Toad. Are you alright?

Toad: Isn't this motor car great?

Rat: Silly Toad! Now he wants a motor car. I wonder how long this silly idea will last.

Narrator: Toad decided to buy one of those noisy vehicles but he was a terrible driver.



Toad has got a motor car
He thinks that he's a superstar
He's always driving much too fast
Watch him as he races past

CHORUS: *Watch out! Watch out! It's Mr Toad
The biggest danger on the road!
He won't stop! He won't go slow!
He only wants to go, go go!*

Watch him drive past you and me
A cloud of dust is all we'll see
He won't slow down, he doesn't care
He doesn't even see us there



SONG: Watch out!





Meet Toad, Mole, Rat and Badger ... four lovable characters who behave more like people than animals. Follow them on a wild adventure as Toad gets into a lot of trouble and must fight the evil weasels. How will his friends help him? And will Toad learn his lesson?



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