

The Wind in the Willows

by Kenneth Grahame

Kenneth Grahame's gentle classic follows the misadventures of Mole, Rat, Badger, and the boastful Mr. Toad along an idyllic English riverbank, celebrating friendship and the pleasures of nature.

Rank #16

Power Words

#	WORD	DEFINITION
1	swaggering	verb 1 to walk or move in a proud or arrogant manner; strut; 2 to be loud and conceited; boast; brag. <i>"Toad went swaggering through the village in his motoring coat, tipping his cap to everyone he passed."</i>
1	adventurous	adj. willing to take risks or try new things. <i>"Mole had never felt adventurous before the river, yet now he could not imagine returning to his dark hole."</i>
1	boastfully	adv. in a manner that shows pride in oneself. <i>"Toad spoke boastfully of his driving skills even as the magistrate read out the lengthy list of charges."</i>
1	companionable	adj. friendly and sociable; suitable for companionship. <i>"They walked in companionable silence along the frost-edged path, needing no words to feel perfectly understood."</i>
1	contentedly	adv. in a happy and satisfied way. <i>"Mole sat contentedly beside Rat, watching the water voles and deciding he had never been so perfectly happy."</i>
1	hospitable	adj. welcoming guests and being friendly. <i>"Badger's underground home was wonderfully hospitable, its long warm passages lined with larders and comfortable armchairs."</i>
1	impetuous	adj. acting quickly without thinking carefully. <i>"Toad's impetuous nature meant that every new passion consumed him entirely before breakfast the following morning."</i>
1	indignantly	adv. in a manner that shows anger or annoyance at something perceived as unfair or unjust. <i>"Toad spluttered indignantly at the suggestion that he had ever driven recklessly, adjusting his motoring goggles with pride."</i>
1	meander	v. to follow a winding course or path. <i>"The companions would meander along the towpath for hours, in no hurry and with nowhere particular to be."</i>
1	obstinate	adj. stubbornly refusing to change one's opinion or chosen course. <i>"Toad was entirely obstinate on the subject of motorcars, dismissing every warning his friends patiently offered him."</i>
1	placidly	adv. in a calm and peaceful manner. <i>"Rat sculled placidly upstream, trailing one paw in the cool water and humming a tune to no one."</i>
1	recuperate	v. to recover or regain health or strength after an illness or injury. <i>"Mole was sent to recuperate by the fire after his frightening ordeal in the Wild Wood's deep snow."</i>
1	reprehensible	adj. deserving blame or criticism for a wrongdoing. <i>"Badger declared Toad's behaviour thoroughly reprehensible and insisted that a stern intervention could no longer be delayed."</i>
1	reverently	adv. in a way that shows deep respect. <i>"Mole and Rat stood reverently at the river's edge at dawn, sensing something ancient and holy in the stillness."</i>
1	tranquil	adj. peaceful and calm without disturbance or worry. <i>"The tranquil river slipped past the willows, carrying nothing more urgent than a fallen leaf toward the weir."</i>