

Name: _____

Date: _____

Toad and Company.

When they were quite ready, the now triumphant Toad led his companions to the paddock. Toad set them to capture the old grey horse, who, without having been consulted and to his own extreme annoyance, preferred the paddock and took a great deal of catching. Meantime Toad packed the lockers still tighter with necessaries and hung nose-bags, nets of onions, bundles of hay and baskets of bedding from the bottom of his cart. At last the horse was caught and harnessed and they set off, all talking at once, each animal either trudging by the side of the cart or sitting on the shaft, as the humour took him. It was a golden afternoon. The smell of the dust they kicked was rich and satisfying; out of thick orchards on either side of the road birds called and whistled to them cheerily; good-natured passer-by gave them "Good day," or stopped to say nice things about their beautiful cart; and rabbits, sitting at their front doors in the hedgerows, held their fore-paws and said "O my! O my! O my!"

Late in the evening, tired and happy and miles from home, they drew up on a remote common far from habitations, turned the horse loose to graze and ate their simple supper sitting on the grass by the side of the cart. Toad talked big about all he was going to do in the days to come, while stars grew fuller and larger all around them and a yellow moon, appearing suddenly and silently from nowhere in particular, came to keep them company and listen to their talk. At last they turned into their little bunks in the cart; and Toad kicking out his legs, sleepily said, "Well, good night, you fellows! This is the real life for a gentleman! Talk about your old river!"

"I don't talk about my river," replied the patient Rat. "You know I don't, Toad. But I think about it," he added pathetically, in a lower tone: "I think about it – all the time!"

The mole reached out from under his blanket, got Rat's paw in the darkness, and gave it a squeeze. "I'll do whatever you like, Ratty," he whispered. "Shall we run away tomorrow morning, quite early- very early- and go back to our dear old hole on the river?"

"No, no we'll see it out," whispered back the Rat. "Thanks awfully, but I ought to stick by Toad till this trip is ended. It wouldn't be safe for him to be left to himself. It won't take very long. His fads never do. Good night!"

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The end was indeed nearer than even Rat suspected. After so much open air excitement the Toad slept very soundly and no amount of shaking could rouse him out of bed next morning. So the Mole and Rat set to work quietly and while Rat saw to the horse and lit the fire and cleaned last night's cups and platters. Mole got things ready for breakfast. Then Mole trudged off to the nearest village, a long way off for milk and eggs and various necessaries the Toad had, of course forgotten to provide. The hard work had all been done and the two animals were resting, thoroughly exhausted by the time Toad appeared on the scene, fresh and happy, remarking what a pleasant easy life it was they all were leading now, after the cares and worries of housekeeping at home.

Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

Fill in the gap with a word or words.

1. Toad filled the lockers and Rat and Mole had to _____.
2. Rat and Mole's job was hard because _____.
3. Toad hung, nose bags, _____, _____ and _____ from the bottom of the cart.
4. Write one word that means the same as TALKED BIG in the second paragraph _____.

Tick the correct answer.

5. Where did they stop for the night? **A. at a hotel B. a remote grassy area. C. next to the river**
6. Where do they eat their supper. **A. a café B. in the cart. C. on the grass.**
7. Rat is feeling. **A. ill B. tired C. homesick**
8. How do we know that Rat is feeling like this? _____
9. Who sets of the buy breakfast **A. Rat B. Mole C. Toad.**
10. Write down five adjectives to describe Toad.

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