

When things are not explained literally in a text, you can use clues to reach a logical conclusion. This is called inference.

Read the short story then answer the questions in full sentences.

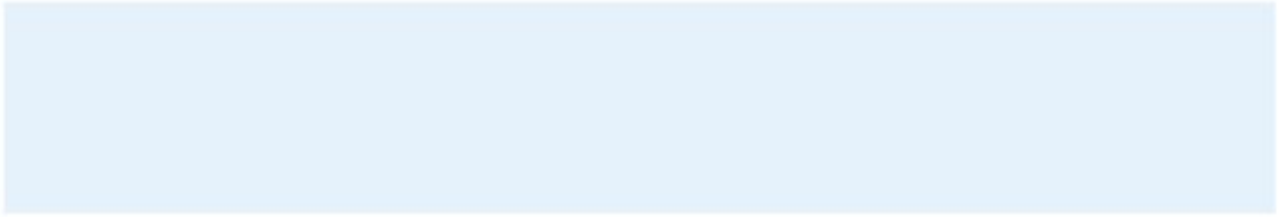
The Wind in the Willows

The River Bank (Adapted)

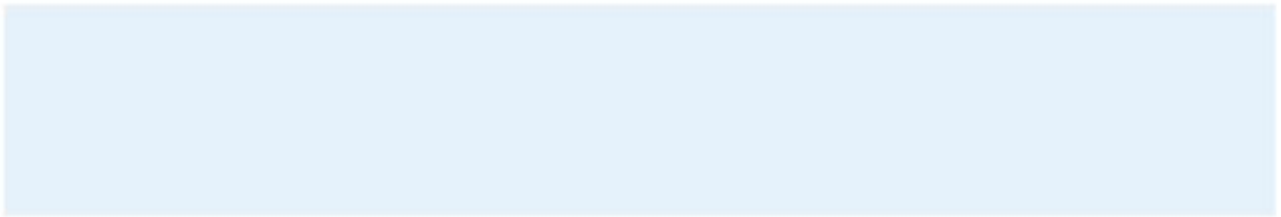
It all seemed too good to be true. Here and there, through the meadows, he rambled busily along the hedgerows, across the woods, finding everywhere birds building, flowers budding, leaves thrusting—everything happy, and busy, and occupied. And instead of having an uneasy conscience pricking him and whispering, “white paint!” he somehow could only feel how jolly it was to be the only lazy animal among all these busy citizens. After all, the best part of a holiday is perhaps not so much to be resting yourself, as to see all the other animals busy working.

He thought his happiness was complete when, as he strolled aimlessly along, suddenly he stood by the edge of a river. Never in his life had he seen a river before—this sleek, winding 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. The Mole was bewitched, entranced and fascinated. By the side of the river, he trotted as one trots when very small, by the side of a man who holds one spell-bound by exciting stories; and when tired at last, he sat on the bank, while the river still chattered on to him, babbling the best stories in the world, sent from the middle of the earth to be told at last to the hungry sea.

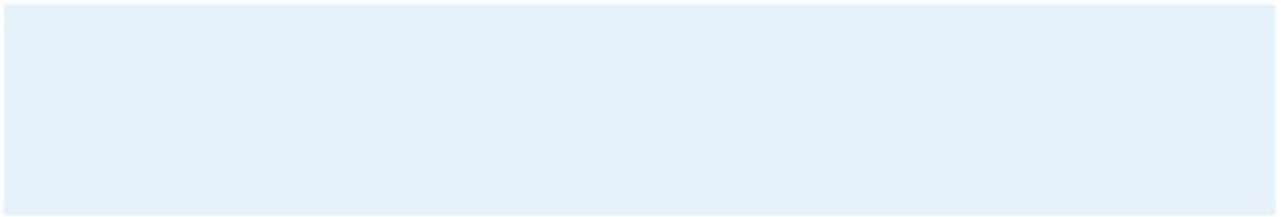
1. Why would Mole have an 'uneasy conscience'?



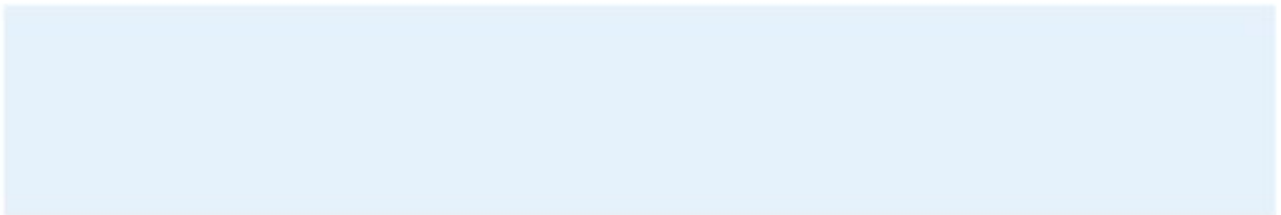
2. Do you think that Mole really believes that it is better to be resting on holiday, or watching others work? Why?



3. Why had Mole 'never...seen a river before'?



4. What does the description that the river 'chattered' tell you about how it sounded?



5. How could the river tell stories of the world if it was located in one place?

