

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)

...As he sat on the grass and looked across the river, a dark hole in the bank opposite, just above the water's edge, caught his eye. Dreamily, he fell to considering what a nice snug dwelling-place it would make for an animal with few wants. He was fond of a bijou riverside residence, above flood level and remote from noise and dust. As he gazed, something bright and small seemed to twinkle down in the heart of it, vanished, then twinkled once more like a tiny star. But it could hardly be a star in such an unlikely situation; and it was too glittering and small for a glow-worm. Then, as he looked, it winked at him, and so declared itself to be an eye; a small face began gradually to grow up round it, like a frame round a picture.

A brown little face, with whiskers.

A grave, round face, with the same twinkle in its eye that had first attracted his notice.

Small, neat ears and thick, silky hair.

It was the Water Rat!

Then the two animals stood and regarded each other cautiously.

"Hullo, Mole!" said the Water Rat.

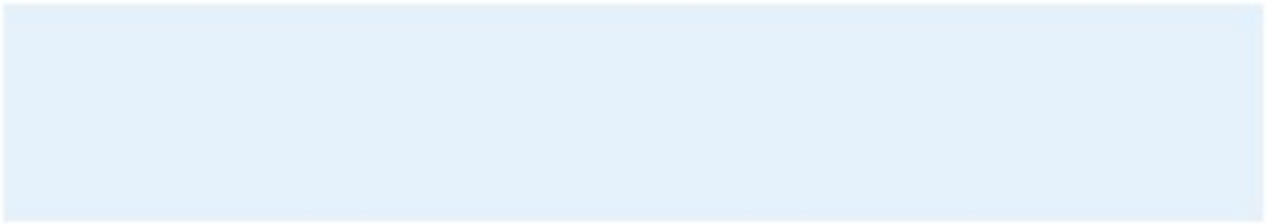
"Hullo, Rat!" said the Mole.

"Would you like to come over?" enquired the Rat presently.

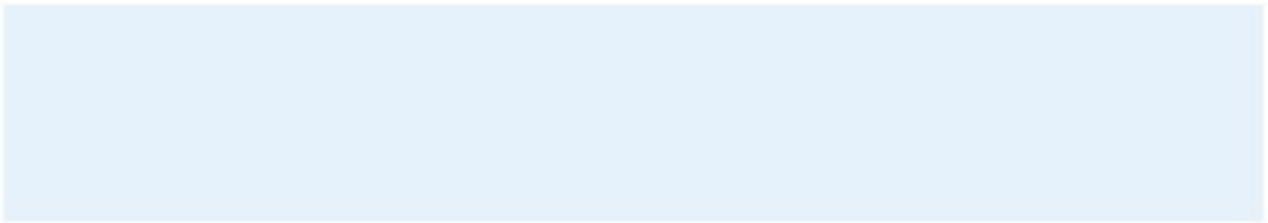
"Oh, it's all very well to talk," said the Mole, rather sulkily, he being new to a river and riverside life and its ways.

The Rat said nothing, but stooped and unfastened a rope and hauled on it; then lightly stepped into a little boat which the Mole had not observed. It was painted blue outside and white within, and was just the size for two animals; and the Mole's whole heart went out to it at once, even though he did not yet fully understand its uses.

1. How do you think Mole felt as he saw something move on the opposite bank?



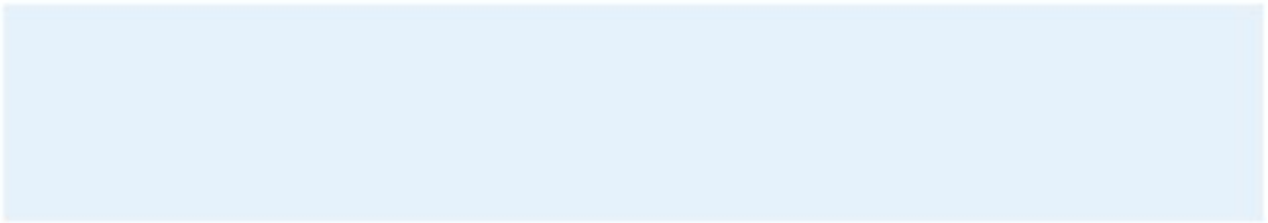
2. Why did the animals 'regard each other cautiously?'



3. Why did Rat wait until 'presently' to invite Mole to the other side of the bank?



4. What do you think the Mole was feeling when he saw Rat's boat? How do you know?



5. When the Mole and Rat got back to Rat's home, what do you think they might do?
Give reasons for your opinion.

