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PRE-GRAMMAR | Preparation

*Prepare the student for understanding the Central One Idea
by drawing upon his or her prior knowledge or experience.*

1. Think of a fable where an animal was the main character. What were some of the traits the animal was given, and how did those traits shape the story?

2. What kind of animal would you pick to represent yourself? What qualities does that animal have that represent you?

3. Make a list of people who have influenced your life—those who have taught or coached you. Choose one and tell what lessons you have learned from this person.

GRAMMAR | Presentation

LOGIC | Dialectic

In the Grammar section, the student is presented with and discovers essential facts, elements, and features of the novel. In the Logic section, the student reasons with the facts, elements, and features of the novel; invents, sorts, arranges, compares, and connects ideas – and begins to uncover and determine the Central One Idea.

Chapter 1

READING NOTES

1. **Mole's hole** – Mole's secluded home underground
2. **hedgerows** – thick rows of bushes forming a hedge (a barrier or boundary)
3. **copses** – small groupings of trees
4. **bijou** – a beautiful jewel
5. **sculls** – a pair of oars used by a single rower
6. **River** – where the civilized animals such as Ratty, Otter, and Toad live; they call themselves "river-bankers"
7. **Wild Wood** – the world just past the River, where the animals can be friendly but are not to be trusted
8. **Wide World** – the outer world beyond the safety of the river bank; where the humans live
9. **weir** – a dam in a river, or a fence of broken branches or stakes put in a stream to catch fish
10. **punt** – to propel one's boat by using a pole against the river bottom

WORDS TO BE DEFINED

Definitions Bank

authoritatively	privacy
cellar; under	scorning; mocking
delicately; carefully	touched gently and affectionately
disdainful; disrespectful	unable to be filled or satisfied
liberated; freed	unplanned

1. Something up above was calling him **imperiously**

authoritatively

2. soft breezes **caressed** his heated brow

touched gently and affectionately

3. after the **seclusion** of the cellarage he had lived in

privacy

4. after the seclusion of the **cellarage** he had lived in

cellar; under

5. the impatient and **contemptuous** Mole

disdainful; disrespectful

6. who trotted along the side of the hedge **chaffing** the other rabbits

scorning; mocking

7. the **insatiable** sea

unable to be filled or satisfied

8. the Mole stepped **gingerly** down

delicately; carefully

9. This was an **impromptu** affair

unplanned

10. the **emancipated** Mole

liberated; freed



Read Chapter 1, marking the text in key places according to the method taught in "How to Mark a Book."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Where has Mole lived his life to this point? What causes him to leave his home?

To this point, Mole has lived in his underground hole by himself. The call of spring causes him to leave his home and dig up out of the earth into the sunshine of the meadow.

2. Mole first encounters rabbits when he gets above ground. What do they demand, and how does Mole respond?

The first creatures Mole encounters are the rabbits that demand Mole pay sixpence for the privilege of passing by the road. Mole pushes through them, impatient and with contempt.

3. *He thought his happiness was complete when, as he meandered aimlessly along, suddenly he stood by the edge of a full-fed river. Never in his life had he seen a river before – this sleek, sinuous, full-bodied 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.*

In this passage, Grahame uses many literary elements to help the reader understand how "The Mole was bewitched, entranced, fascinated" upon seeing the river for the first time. Give an example of each element from the passage:

- a. Onomatopoeia: gurgle
- b. Personification: chasing and chuckling, gripping things and leaving them with a laugh, fling on fresh playmates, caught and held, chatter
- c. Alliteration: sleek, sinuous; chasing and chuckling; leaving them with a laugh; glints and gleams
- d. Metaphor: The river is being compared to a full-bodied animal that is playful.

4. How is the Water Rat described when Mole first sees him?

Water Rat is described as having a brown little face with whiskers, a grave round face, and a twinkle in his eyes. He has small neat ears and thick silky hair.