

# WATERSHIP DOWN

# LIVING LITERATURE SERIES

RICHARD ADAMS

A PERMA-BOUND PRODUCTION

## TEACHER'S GUIDE

GUIDE WRITTEN BY MARY ELLEN SNODGRASS

### SYNOPSIS

Shaken from his pleasant life at Sandleford Warren by the prophetic dreams of his undersized brother Fiver, Hazel attempts to alert the Chief Rabbit to a nameless, but eminent danger. When they are rebuffed, Hazel, along with Fiver, Bigwig, Pipkin, and Blackberry set out to save themselves. Encountering the usual dangers of the forest, including wild animals and the perilous crossing of the Enborne River, the rabbits at first are able to keep up their courage and enjoy their freedom from the controls of the warren.

Upon their arrival at Cowslip's Warren to the northeast, where sleek, fat rabbits enjoy a seemingly ideal life under human protection, Hazel's group learns that appearances are deceptive. Because Bigwig is nearly killed by a copper wire snare, the rabbits angrily depart from their spineless hosts. Only one rabbit—Strawberry—from Cowslip's Warren, pleads for protection from "the wire" and is added to their group.

The rabbits arrive at Watership Down and discover a haven—high, open grassland and a deserted underground shelter ready for occupancy. They rest from their journey and listen to one of a series of oral stories about their mythic hero, El-ahrairah. Hazel slowly assumes the role of chief, but he maintains his humility and warmth and never loses his vision of a better life for his followers.

Hazel offers aid to an injured gull and to a fieldmouse beset by a kestrel. The gull, Kehaar, proves to be a loyal ally who brings word of the world below, which he can easily survey from his lofty vantage point. He puts his talent to work and aids the rabbits of Watership Down in their search for does. Their initial foray to Nuthanger Farm whets Hazel's enthusiasm for another attempt at freeing the caged rabbits from their hutches in the barn. Although Hazel is wounded in the leg by a gunshot wound, the addition of Clover, Boxwood, and Haystack to the warren assures the rabbits of offspring.

Meanwhile, Holly and Bluebell escape the obliteration of the Sandleford warren and journey over the same route that brought Hazel's group to Watership Down. Their terrifying tale of humans who poison the underground chambers of the warren and shoot any rabbits that manage to escape fills all the rabbits with sadness—their old friends are dead; their old home has been bulldozed. They have no choice now but to succeed on their own.

The rabbits turn their attention to Efrafa, a notorious warren run by General Woundwort, a ruthless dictator who terrorizes the inhabitants and punishes any who try to escape. Bigwig, who masterminds the mission to the east, is

captured by the Efracans. He tricks the guards and escapes; soon all of Watership Down's rabbits are reunited, and Hazel rapidly recovers from the gunshot wound.

Hazel's group decides to try another raid on Efrafa with Bigwig leading the way and Kehaar providing aerial reconnaissance. Although the rabbits must cross the treacherous "iron road" and a bridge over the Test River, they are eager to put their plan into action so that they can add more does to their warren. Bigwig infiltrates the guards and asks Hyzenthlay, a despairing doe, to choose some dependable females to leave Efrafa and journey to Watership Down.

Boarding a boat at the river's edge, the rabbits elude General Woundwort's patrol, leaving him stupefied and humiliated by Bigwig's clever ruse. The rabbits employ Kehaar one last time before the gull departs for "the big water," which he longs to see again. They lose one female when their boat passes under a bridge, but they arrive home safely with Hyzenthlay and three other does plus a pitiful male, Blackavar, whom Woundwort mutilated and displayed as an example to rabbits who try to escape Efrafa.

The rabbits' contentment at Watership Down is shortlived when the fieldmouse warns them that General Woundwort and Captain Campion are leading a raid on the warren. Bigwig blocks the passage of the Efracans, who dig into their burrow in order to exterminate its inhabitants. Hazel makes a desperate dash for Nuthanger Farm, releases the dog from his rope, and drives away the invaders. Although Hazel again suffers injury, Lucy Canes rescues him from Tab, the cat, and returns him to Watership Down, where he rules in peace over his growing family of rabbits.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Richard George Adams, a native of the rolling country of Berkshire, England, which forms the background for *Watership Down*, was born in Newbury in 1920. He served in the British Army during World War II and, after receiving an M.A. in history from Oxford in 1948, worked for twenty-six years in the British civil service.

His list of published works is a long one: *Shardik*, *The Plague Dogs*, *The Girl in a Swing*, *The Unbroken Web*, *Nature Through the Seasons*, *Nature Day and Night*, *Voyage Through the Antarctic*, *The Ship's Cat*, *Tyger Voyage*, and *Watership Down*.

Adams lives in Whitchurch, Hampshire. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a past president of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. He has two daughters, Juliet and Rosamond; his wife Elizabeth is an expert in English ceramic history.

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### CRITIC'S CORNER

*Watership Down* was an immediate success with readers of all ages and strata. Following its publication in 1972, it continued on the bestseller list for over a year and earned Adams several awards, including the Carnegie Medal and Guardian Award for children's literature.

### GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the social structures that govern and support life, including the family, military, teamwork, central authority, worship, entertainment, and friendship.
2. To analyze the role of the poet/seer in society and to discuss the purpose of myth in preserving and perpetuating the past.
3. To discuss natural responses to fear and danger.
4. To explain the forces that drive living creatures, including hunger, thirst, respiration, elimination of waste products, and the urge to reproduce.
5. To explain how leadership evolves out of need.
6. To identify the author's beliefs about death.

### SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To contrast the roles of Kehaar and Fiver in protecting the warren.
2. To explain Bigwig's heroic effort to save Blackavar.
3. To account for Woundwort's belligerent attitude.
4. To describe how rabbits view the behavior and lifestyle of humans.
5. To recognize a variety of emotions and behavior in wild animals, including sympathy, courtesy, curiosity, prejudice, daring, hero-worship, piety, suspicion, loyalty, and love.
6. To account for Hazel's success as a leader.
7. To contrast Threarah and Woundwort as chiefs.
8. To understand the special language which the rabbits have devised to describe certain important aspects of their life.
9. To note the interdependence of nature and to describe the disruptions which occur in ecology when man interferes with nature.

### MEANING STUDY

Below are words, phrases, sentences, or thought units that have particular meaning in the story. Explain the meaning each has in this book. Page numbers are given so that you can note the context from which the item is taken.

1. They had heard the unnatural humming of a pylon in the summer air, (p. 128).  
*(The rabbits are aware of the metal tower that supports electric wires over Kingsclere, southeast to Hare Warren Down, across Caesar's Belt, and south to Bradley Wood, near Whitchurch. [see map, pp. 8-9])*
2. a kind of telepathic feeling, (p. 25)  
*(Rabbits seem to communicate without direct communication by some unspoken transference of thought, which all understand and accept as natural.)*
3. the terrible onslaught of Myxomatosis, (p. 19)  
*(an infectious virus of rabbits which is transmitted by mosquitoes and causes numerous growths filled with mucus to form in connective tissues.)*
4. a very simple, limited *lingua franca* of the hedgerow, (p. 151); the hedgerow patois (p. 187).  
*(a jargon or hybrid language, similar to pidgin English, made up of words known to all animals and serving as a means of inter-animal communication.)*
5. Dandelion running ahead to reconnoiter, (p. 129).  
*(a military maneuver in which scouts precede the main body of troops for the purpose of examining the geographical lay of the land, the strength and location of the enemy, and unusual circumstances, such as obstacles that must be overcome or insufficiency of water or food.)*
6. a length of twisted copper wire . . . was looped round his neck, (p. 117).  
*(Bigwig is the victim of a snare, a trap for small animals that consists of a noose that tightens when it is released from its trigger. The entrapped animal, therefore, shortens its own life by vigorous attempts to escape.)*
7. They watched him leap the bank of the further copse and disappear through the green bracken. (p. 74)  
*(The rabbit enters a thicket filled with weedy fern fronds.)*
8. They were on top of the down. (p. 133)  
*(The rabbits arrive at a wide expanse of high, grassy land.)*
9. At this shocking impiety, the tumult died away. (p. 12)  
*(Rabbits, like human beings, have taboo language which they reserve for exclamations or swear terms. Fiver's "O embleer Frith!" combines the name of a deity with the coarse word which refers to the stink of a fox, producing an incongruity which shocks the other rabbits.)*
10. His demeanor had a kind of melancholy which was perplexing. (p. 71)  
*(Hazel's encounter with Cowslip and his warren is puzzling because the rabbits of Sandford Park have never known a situation in which rabbits are fed and*

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protected by humans before being snared and slaughtered for meat. Hazel eventually understands how the demoralized rabbits of Cowslip's warren have cut themselves off from the terrifying truth and have ceased to respond to questions which begin with where.)

### COMPREHENSION STUDY

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the book.

#### Questions 1-5 Literal Level

1. Why does Bigwig choose Hyzenthlay to lead the does from Efrafa?

*(Bigwig guards a group of rabbits who are feeding and observes the signs of stress in a group of does. He realizes that these females are "not far from the end of their powers" and chooses Hyzenthlay to befriend. When he hears her name, he recalls that she "told Holly and his companions about the troubles of Efrafa and the discontent of the does.")*

*After sending for Hyzenthlay, Bigwig begins to trust her. He decides to entreat her help after she says pathetically, "My heart is in the frost." Bigwig concludes, "We need you: Efrafa doesn't need you.")*

2. What events in Woundwort's life account for his savagery?

*("The strongest of a litter of five," Woundwort sees his happy-go-lucky father shot for stealing vegetables and follows his wounded mother until she, too, is killed by a weasel. Although a kindly schoolmaster saves him and feeds him with an eyedropper, Woundwort grows wild and savage and nearly kills the schoolmaster's cat. Woundwort tears his way out of his hutch and flees to a nearby warren.*

*He strong-arms his way to the position of Chief and earns a reputation as a warrior. He takes his small following on a search for the perfect warren, "a place suited to his purpose, where the very existence of rabbits, could be concealed and extermination made very difficult."*

*Woundwort guides the rabbits' efforts, "[watching] over them with a tireless zeal that won their loyalty even while they feared him." He develops a system of control, including a Council and Wide Patrols, and allows no rabbit to leave. Woundwort's sense of achievement is gratified by the feeling that other rabbits compete "to risk their lives at his orders.")*

3. Why is Sandleford Warren destroyed?

*(Before building houses on six acres of land, Sutch and Martin, Ltd, of Newbury, Berks, exterminates the rabbits by pumping poisonous gas into their runs and shooting all rabbits that escape. Holly summarizes*

*their assault as follows: "All other ellil do what they have to do and Frith moves them as he moves us. They live on the earth and they need food. Men will never rest till they've spoiled the earth and destroyed the animals."*

*The crowning blow comes after the slaughter, when Holly observes a great yellow bulldozer tearing up the land. He describes the results: "The whole place became like a cattle wade in winter and you could no longer tell where any part of the field had been, between the wood and the brook. Earth and roots and grass and bushes it pushed before it and—and other things as well, from underground.")*

4. Why are the rabbits of Cowslip's warren larger and heavier than Hazel's group?

*(Cowslip's warren is protected from predators and fed at regular intervals on carrots, greens, and apples. "... to the rabbits [the foods] were redolent with luxury, a feast to drive all other feelings out of mind. Hazel concludes, "What a country! What a warren! No wonder they're all as big as hares and smell like princes!")*

5. How does Hazel meet his death?

*(Showing signs of age and no longer able to "smell or run so well as in days gone by," Hazel awakens from his dozing to find a rabbit lying quietly beside him. At first he doesn't recognize the stranger, but he sees "the stranger's eyes were shining with a faint silver light."*

*Hazel humbles himself, referring to the stranger as "my lord," and admits that he is ready to join the stranger's Owsla. Hazel steps out into the sunshine, slipping from his body and enjoying renewed vigor, "the extraordinary feeling that strength and speed were flowing inexhaustibly out of him." Leaping to the top of the bank behind the stranger, Hazel slips away, "running easily down through the wood, where the first primroses were beginning to bloom")*

#### Questions 6-9 Interpretive Level

6. At what point does Hazel concern himself with the long-range future of the warren?

*(When the immediate survival needs of the warren no longer press and Hazel's followers appear "stronger, sleeker and in better shape than when they had first come to the down," Hazel begins to give some thought to the future. He realizes that without does and kittens, "this warren's as good as finished, in spite of all we've done."*

*Adams explains the oversight in terms of the dangers that the rabbits have faced: "Rabbits live close to death and when death comes closer than usual, thinking about survival leaves little room for anything else." The rabbits have ceased the hard scrabble for preservation; with their leisure comes loneliness and a need for companionship.)*

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7. Compare the courage of Bigwig with that of General Woundwort.

*(In their final confrontation, Bigwig sits like Horatio at the bridge, defending the entrance to the warren. General Woundwort tries persuasion, intimidation, and frontal assault. "His great weight was pushing, chest to chest, against Bigwig's. With heads side by side they bit and snapped at each other's shoulders.")*

*As Bigwig feels himself giving way, Woundwort suddenly begins to choke as a result of a blow across his nose. The Efrafa troops withdraw in fear from the snarling of Bob, who suddenly attacks, but Woundwort continues urging them on, shouting, "Come back and fight!"*

*In comparison, both rabbits are scrappers of unusual strength and determination. The reason Bigwig succeeds where Woundwort fails is that Bigwig is part of a greater effort which is based on loyalty. Woundwort, on the other hand, relies on fear and intimidation to force his men to support him. When Woundwort can no longer hold his men together, his power collapses.)*

8. Why is Lucy called the "Dea ex Machina"?

*(Lucy arrives just in time to save Hazel from Tab. She insists that Doctor Adams look at the injured rabbit and learns that his wounds are not mortal.)*

*The title of the chapter refers to a traditional conclusion in ancient Greek theatre when a god was lowered onto the stage from a crane. Any difficult situation onstage was easily solved by immortal powers from Olympus so that all ended well for the characters. Lucy, a female version of "deus ex machina," saves Hazel from the coup de grace—death at the "hands" of a farmyard tomcat.)*

9. How does Adams employ myth in the story?

*(At quiet, non-violent moments in the novel, the rabbits gather willingly for a story. They listen eagerly to the adventures of El-ahrairah and his rascally sidekick Rabscuttle and apply the wisdom of the stories to their own predicaments. From the tales of cunning escapes and masterly deceptions, Hazel and the others learn the mindset that saves the rabbit from extinction.)*

*Likewise the rabbits learn to face death by internalizing stories which explain the purpose of the Black Rabbit, who symbolizes the constant presence of death in their world. All of them recognize the threat of death from their numerous enemies, and all gain strength from El-ahrairah's feisty courage and loyalty to his kind.)*

### Questions 10 and 11 Critical Level

10. How does Adams use the struggle of simple animals to exemplify the characteristics of human beings?

*(Although Watership Down is a story of animals, the human hand that creates it seldom strays from*

*concerns that weigh daily on the human world. The phenomenon of tyranny and control; the shadow of death from accident, hunger, disease, or violence; the loneliness that is cured by friendship and love; and the petty annoyances that arise from egoism and jealousy—all are a part of human life.*

*The unfolding of a microcosm in which the rabbits brave all dangers in exchange for a bit of happiness provides the human reader with a microscopic view of his own struggle to wrest a bit of contentment from the eternal conflicts that beset people. The satisfaction in seeing Hazel overcome the hulking bullies from Efrafa bolsters the reader's hope that, against overwhelming odds, courage and determination will suffice.*

11. Explain how life in the wild triumphs over domestication. *(Adams illustrates that domesticated animals, whose daily needs are supplied by human owners, fail to develop to the fullest their ability to enjoy the natural environment. Deprived of the tension that makes wild animals constantly wary, tame animals become flabby and cowardly. Although Hazel and his followers have more to fear, their acceptance of the challenge of life in the wild makes them truly free in comparison to passive, caged rabbits who know the perimeter of their hutch and no more.)*

### Question 12 Creative Level

12. Compose a story about the migration of a group of animals, such as wild geese, chipmunks, porpoises, reindeer, or monarch butterflies. Before you begin writing, do some research on the habits of these animals. Then give your fictional leader a name and describe his struggle against the forces of nature as he guides his followers to safety.

### STUDENT INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Keep a list of vocabulary that applies to rabbits, such as lapine, pelt, kindle, warren, hutch, run, thumping, burrow, pellets, reabsorption, kitten, buck, and doe. Define each term and explain how it applies to rabbit life.
2. Act out one of the myths in the story, such as the tale of the Blessing of El-ahrairah, the Trial of El-ahrairah, the story of the King's Lettuce, the tale of the Black Rabbit of Inlé, or the story of Rowsby Woof and the Fairy Wogdog. Color paper bags and decorate with ears and whiskers to serve as masks for each character.
3. Compare the stories of El-ahrairah to Joel Chandler Harris's Uncle Remus stories, animal myths of American Indians, Reynard the fox, Paul Bunyon and Babe the Blue Ox, or Aesop's fables.
4. Draw a diagram of one of the warrens, such as Efrafa, Sandelford, or Watership Down. Indicate where does

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and their young are kept and where lookouts are posted. Mark sleeping quarters and emergency exits.

5. Write a description of Hazel's arrival in El-ahrairah's Owsla and the stories he tells of his adventures among earthly rabbits.
6. Make a gallery of animals which inhabit the area surrounding Watership Down, such as the stoat, fox, kestrel, fieldmouse, and others. Summarize the habits, diets, and characteristics of each animal, including its natural enemies and its methods of self-protection.
7. Explain how Hazel combines the strength of Cowslip's warren and Efrafa into his small warren. What are the advantages of interbreeding with outsiders?
8. Describe in rabbit terminology various *hrududil* that animals might be curious about or frightened of, such as a garden tiller, motorboat, lawn mower, typewriter, refrigerator, washing machine, garbage disposal, TV antenna, or snowmobile.
9. Write a paragraph comparing Hazel to some other great leader or pioneer, such as Brigham Young, Captain John Smith, Neil Armstrong, Abraham, Noah, Daniel Boone, or Davy Crockett.
10. Compose some riddles similar to the one on p. 147 about a subject that would interest rabbits, such as clover, tree roots, long ears, snares, predators, small animals, or the weather.

## TEACHING NOTES

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### VOCABULARY TEST

Complete the following sentences by selecting words from the list below to fill the blanks. You will have words left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Despite the cool, exciting air of the July evening, he seemed apathetic and\_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. In combat he was terrifying, fighting entirely to kill, indifferent to any wounds he received himself and closing with his \_\_\_\_\_ until his weight overbore and exhausted them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. . . . he caught sight, between the plants, of a brilliant \_\_\_\_\_bird flashing past over the open water.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Along its further side the \_\_\_\_\_plants grew thickly, so that it was separated from the river by a kind of hedge. . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. When Fiver's urging had penetrated his dark,\_\_\_\_\_stupor, he had at first actually tried not to respond.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_is familiar to all rabbits—indeed, it is second nature. . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. We need daylight and to that extent it is \_\_\_\_\_,but moonlight we do not need.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. A \_\_\_\_\_wild creature, intent above all on survival, is as strong as the grass.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Few places are far from human noise—cars, buses, motorcycles, tractors,\_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The grass\_\_\_\_\_about them.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The legs were loose, the belly\_\_\_\_\_and limp.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Fiver, as he listened, has shown a mixture of intense\_\_\_\_\_and incredulous horror.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. But to the rabbits they were\_\_\_\_\_with luxury, a feast to drive all other feelings out of mind.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. The dancers paused, evidently waiting for some acknowledgment or \_\_\_\_\_gesture, but there was none.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Perhaps, thought Hazel\_\_\_\_\_, teeth and claws would make no impression on that great, firm body and shining pelt.

A. absorption  
B. adversaries  
C. azure  
D. blithe  
E. bracken  
F. cryptically  
G. ductile

H. ebbing  
I. flaccid  
J. foraging  
K. lassitude  
L. lorries  
M. reciprocal  
N. reconnaissance

O. redolent  
P. riparian  
Q. staunch  
R. torpid  
S. undulated  
T. utilitarian  
U. wryly

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### COMPREHENSION TEST A

#### Part I: Matching (30 points)

Match the following descriptions with the characters named below. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Hazel's brother.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. put on display by the Council as an example of treachery.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. saves Hazel from the cat and takes him to Doctor Adams.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. suffers a damaged wing when attacked by a cat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. reveals Bigwig's plans to the Council.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. hides in a land drain after being shot.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. a wise human who knows about rabbits.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. scolds Bigwig for arranging an audience for Fiver and Hazel.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. a young rabbit who recites poetry.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. gnaws an old tire into the shape of a dog's nose.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. a hutch rabbit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. leads a patrol to the Test River to stop Bigwig.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. picks the does to follow Bigwig out of Efrafa.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. accuses El-ahrairah and Rabscuttle of being slippery.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. joins Hazel's warren after the Efrafan attack.

A. Blackavar

B. Clover

C. Cowslip

D. El-ahrairah

E. Fiver

F. Groundsel

G. General Woundwort

H. Hazel

I. Holly

J. Hyzenthlay

K. Kehaar

L. Lucy

M. Mr. Lockley

N. Mrs. Cane

O. Nelthilta

P. Pipkin

Q. Prince Rainbow

R. Silverweed

S. Strawberry

T. Threarah

#### Part II: Identification (20 points)

Identify which character makes the following statements. Place your answer in the blank provided at left.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. My Chief Rabbit has told me to defend this run and until he says otherwise I shall stay here.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I'll ge' bi' o' breakfast up to Mum now.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I am the Fairy Wogwog, messenger of the great dog spirit of the East, Queen Dripslobber.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I no catch 'em in dere. Dey coming all along beside you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. There's something I'm trying to hear—something the others can't hear.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. We ought to make other warrens between us—start one between here and Efrafa, with rabbits from both sides.





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### COMPREHENSION TEST B

#### Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

Choose the answer which correctly completes each statement. Place the letter of your response in the blank provided at left.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Fiver describes the coming danger as (a) a great white bird with an injured wing (b) a *hrududu* (c) a wire around his neck (d) one of the *elil*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Holly tries to arrest Bigwig for (a) inciting to mutiny (b) helping Blackavar escape the patrol (c) stealing does from Efrafa (d) sending a dog against General Woundwort.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Pipkin is small enough to (a) hide with the does from the Efracan patrol (b) climb down the hole and bite the peg that holds the wire (c) enter the drain pipe and save Hazel (d) climb over the hutches and loosen the leather hinges.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. El-ahrairah fools Hufsa by (a) asking the king's son to accompany the rabbits through the gate (b) covering the hedgehog with rose petals (c) biting through the rope and floating away in the punt (d) gambling on a game of bob-stones.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. At Nuthanger Farm Pipkin warns Hazel about (a) a fox (b) a yellow *hrududu* with silver arms (c) the iron road (d) a tabby.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Kehaar suggests that Hazel hide (a) across the bridge on the other side of the Test River (b) when the patrol comes out for *sifflay* (c) on a plank in the middle of the Enborne River (d) down a cold stone run at *Inlé*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Rabbits never pass *hraka* (a) in a ditch (b) near Honeycomb (c) underground (d) while there is thunder and lightning outside.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. When Hazel dodges the fox (a) the fox grabs Clover and carries her across the combe (b) the other rabbits bite through the rope and set the Labrador free (c) Kehaar makes an attack from the air (d) the fox kills Captain Mallow.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Fiver alarms Vervain when he says, (a) "Believe me, I am sorry for your death" (b) "Zorn, zorn. All dead" (c) "That rabbit's got to be killed" (d) "You are closer to death than I".
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Blackberry believes that the rabbits must change their natural ways and (a) learn to swim (b) dig (c) carry carrots like squirrels carry nuts (d) allow outsiders to join the warren.

#### Part II: Matching (20 points)

Match parts of quotations. You will have answers left over when you finish.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. We could put Fiver and Pipkin on it
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. This ideally situated estate. . .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. But if a real dog of flesh and blood could run four times round the house, barking as loudly as he could
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. It seemed to Hazel that he would not be needing his body any more,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Once we're clear of the place,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. It is, rather, a blessedly circumscribed imagination and an intuitive feeling
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Rabbits, of course, have no idea
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. When Hazel had said that they were all tired out
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Old Snowdrop was growing deaf,
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Every length smells of rabbit—

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- A. is to be developed with high class modern residences. . .
- B. of precise time or of punctuality.
- C. and make it float again.
- D. the ground's as dry as straw in a barn.
- E. of that great, indestructible flood of Rabbity in which each one is carried along, sure-footed and safe.
- F. stones, pushed into the surface!
- G. something unnatural and evil twisted all round this place.
- H. that Life is Now.
- I. he had meant that they were feeling the strain of prolonged insecurity and fear.
- J. we've got to become impossible to find—beyond the reach of any Wide Patrol.
- K. General Woundwort's going to look remarkably silly before we've finished.
- L. but no one knew more than he about organizing a warren for safety.
- M. and less easy to keep the size of the warren under control
- N. then the spell would be broken and the sickness would have no power.
- O. so he left it lying on the edge of the ditch, but stopped for a moment to watch his rabbits. . .

### Part III: Completion (20 points)

Fill in the word or phrase which makes each sentence a true statement.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. El-ahrairah watches the human gather the frosty \_\_\_\_\_ and carry them into his house.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_'s ears are ripped to shreds as punishment for running away.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. El-ahrairah asks to be judged by a jury of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. *Fu Inlé* means "after \_\_\_\_\_."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ longs to return to the "big water."
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Hazel asks Lord \_\_\_\_\_ to help him out of danger.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Avens hears *Thlayli* muttering "Ask \_\_\_\_\_" in his sleep.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. As Chief Rabbit, Hazel goes out alone to negotiate with \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The \_\_\_\_\_ Run was made so that rabbits could get under their enemy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_ shows her treasures—a butterfly in a jar or a bird's egg—to Doctor Adams.

### Part IV: Significance (10 points)

Explain why each of these terms is significant to the story.

1. *owsla*
2. *tharn*
3. *hlessi*
4. *Rah*
5. *silflay*

### Part V: Essay Questions (30 points)

1. Explain how Hazel leads his group from Sandleford.
2. Contrast the strength of Bigwig with that of General Woundwort.

## WATERSHIP DOWN

### VOCABULARY TEST ANSWER KEY

- |      |       |       |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. R | 6. N  | 11. I |
| 2. B | 7. T  | 12. A |
| 3. C | 8. J  | 13. O |
| 4. P | 9. L  | 14. M |
| 5. H | 10. S | 15. U |

### COMPREHENSION TEST A ANSWER KEY

#### Part I: Matching (30 Points)

- |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. E. | 6. H  | 11. B |
| 2. A  | 7. M  | 12. G |
| 3. L  | 8. T  | 13. J |
| 4. K  | 9. R  | 14. Q |
| 5. O  | 10. D | 15. F |

#### Part II: Identification (20 points)

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Bigwig      | 6. Hazel      |
| 2. Lucy        | 7. the mouse  |
| 3. El-ahrairah | 8. Silverweed |
| 4. Kehaar      | 9. Holly      |
| 5. Fiver       | 10. Bluebell  |

#### Part III: True/False (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. T | 6. T  |
| 2. F | 7. F  |
| 3. F | 8. F  |
| 4. F | 9. T  |
| 5. T | 10. T |

### COMPREHENSION TEST B ANSWER KEY

#### Part I: Multiple Choice (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. A  |
| 2. A | 7. C  |
| 3. B | 8. D  |
| 4. B | 9. A  |
| 5. D | 10. B |

#### Part II: Matching (20 points)

- |      |       |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. H  |
| 2. A | 7. B  |
| 3. N | 8. I  |
| 4. O | 9. L  |
| 5. J | 10. E |

#### Part III: Completion (20 points)

- |              |                      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. cabbages  | 6. Frith             |
| 2. Blackavar | 7. Fiver             |
| 3. animals   | 8. General Woundwort |
| 4. moonrise  | 9. Slack             |
| 5. Kehaar    | 10. Lucy             |

#### Part IV: Significance (10 points)

[Note: These terms can be found in the Lapine Glossary on pages 476-78.]

1. *Owsla* refers to the hierarchy or ruling class of rabbits.
2. *Tharn* is the stunned expression worn by a rabbit frozen with fear.
3. *Hlessi* is a roving rabbit that is unattached to a warren.
4. *Rah* is a suffix added to a leader's name to denote a position of authority, as in Hazel-rah.
5. *Sifflay* is the act of feeding aboveground.



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