

Watership Down (1972) - Richard Adams

Lesson 2

Read the extract below:

"You're General Woundwort, aren't you?" said the rabbit. "I've come to talk to you."

"Did Thlayli send you?" asked Woundwort.

"I'm a friend of Thlayli," replied the rabbit. "I've come to ask why you're here and what it is you want."

"Were you on the riverbank in the rain?" said Woundwort.

"Yes, I was."

"What was left unfinished there will be finished now," said Woundwort. "We are going to destroy you."

"You won't find it easy," replied the other. "You'll take fewer rabbits home than you brought. We should both do better to come to terms."

"Very well," said Woundwort. "These are the terms. You will give back all the does who ran from Efrafa and you will hand over the deserters Thlayli and Blackavar to my Owsla."

"No, we can't agree to that. I've come to suggest something altogether different and better for us both. A rabbit has two ears; a rabbit has two eyes, two nostrils. Our two warrens ought to be like that. They ought to be together -- not fighting. We ought to make other warrens between us -- start one between here and Efrafa, with rabbits from both sides. You wouldn't lose by that, you'd gain. We both would. A lot of your rabbits are unhappy now and it's all you can do to control them, but with this plan you'd soon see a difference. Rabbits have enough enemies as it is. They ought not to make more among themselves. A mating between free, independent warrens -- what do you say?"

At that moment, in the sunset on Watership Down, there was offered to General Woundwort the opportunity to show whether he was really the leader of vision and genius which he believed himself to be, or whether he was no more than a tyrant with the courage and cunning of a pirate.

Comprehension

1. Which rabbit gets caught in the snare?
2. What type of animal is Kehaar?
3. Which character finds the location of the Efracan warren?
4. How many rabbits are freed from the farm?
5. Who is the smartest of the rabbits?
6. What does El-ahrairah steal from King Darzin?
7. Who destroys the home warren?
8. Do you think Woundwort is a good leader?
9. Do you think Hazel is a good leader?
10. How would you describe Hazel?

Vocabulary

1. Recourse
2. Quarry
3. Emulation
4. Modest
5. Restive
6. Petulant
7. Bamboozle
8. Demoralise
9. Deasoned
10. Nonplussed
11. Docile
12. Plausible
13. Stupefied
14. Vehemence
15. Malodorous
16. Nevertheless
17. Perplex
18. Fidget
19. Forage
20. Intrepid

HOMEWORK

Using the **work we did today as inspiration**, write a **diary entry** imagining you are **Hazel** and **have to decide how to lead your followers**.

OR

Write a **short story** using **at least 5 new words** (above) that we learned from these chapters.