

Watership Down (1972) - Richard Adam

Lesson 3

Read and think about the following extract from the end of the book:

One chilly, blustery morning in March, I cannot tell exactly how many springs later, Hazel was dozing and waking in his burrow. He had spent a good deal of time there lately, for he felt the cold and could not seem to smell or run so well as in days gone by. He had been dreaming in a confused way -- something about rain and elder bloom -- when he woke to realize that there was a rabbit lying quietly beside him -- no doubt some young buck who had come to ask his advice. The sentry in the run outside should not really have let him in without asking first. Never mind, thought Hazel. He raised his head and said, "Do you want to talk to me?" "Yes, that's what I've come for," replied the other. "You know me, don't you?" "Yes, of course," said Hazel, hoping he would be able to remember his name in a moment. Then he saw that in the darkness of the burrow the stranger's ears were shining with a faint silver light. "Yes, my lord," he said, "Yes, I know you." "You've been feeling tired," said the stranger, "but I can do something about that. I've come to ask whether you'd care to join my Owsla. We shall be glad to have you and you'll enjoy it. If you're ready, we might go along now." They went out past the young sentry, who paid the visitor no attention. The sun was shining and in spite of the cold there were a few bucks and does at silflay, keeping out of the wind as they nibbled the shoots of spring grass. It seemed to Hazel that he would not be needing his body any more, so he left it lying on the edge of the ditch, but stopped for a moment to watch his rabbits and to try to get used to the extraordinary feeling that strength and speed were flowing inexhaustibly out of him into their sleek young bodies and healthy senses. "You needn't worry about them," said his companion. "They'll be all right -- and thousands like them. If you'll come along, I'll show you what I mean." He reached the top of the bank in a single, powerful leap. Hazel followed; and together they slipped away, running easily down through the wood, where the first primroses were beginning to bloom.

Comprehension

1. Which rabbit tells great stories?
2. How would you describe life in the Efrafa warren?
3. Who is the leader of the Efracan warren?
4. Name the rabbit that tracks the others on their return from Efrafa and finds their warren.
5. Who is El-ahrairah's loyal companion?
6. Which character fights Woundwort?
7. Which rabbit is not a member of an Owsla?
8. Who does Bigwig save from the Efracan warren?
9. How would you describe Woundwort?
10. Do you think this is a happy ending?

Vocabulary

1. Cunning
2. Scurry
3. Blustery
4. Spritely
5. Faint
6. Indifference
7. Threshold
8. Aftermath
9. Startling
10. Dependant
11. Tyrant
12. Independent
13. Courageous
14. Dignity
15. Openly
16. Intolerable
17. Ceremony
18. Protection
19. Pretence
20. Silenced

HOMEWORK

What was your **favourite part of the book** and **why**?

OR

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