

Paper 8

One morning the girl was very thoughtful, and answered at random, and did not seem to Toad to be paying proper attention to his witty sayings and sparkling comments.

'Toad,' she said presently, 'just listen, please. I have an aunt who is a washerwoman.'

'There, there,' said Toad graciously and affably, 'never mind; think no more about it. I have several aunts who *ought* to be washerwomen.'

'Do be quiet a minute, Toad,' said the girl. 'You talk too much, that's your chief fault, and I'm trying to think, and you hurt my head. As I said, I have an aunt who is a washerwoman; she does washing for all the prisoners in this castle – we try to keep any paying business of that sort in the family, you understand. She takes out the washing on Monday morning, and brings it in on Friday evening. This is a Thursday. Now, this is what occurs to me: you're very rich – at least you're always telling me so – and she's very poor. A few pounds wouldn't make any difference to you, and it would mean a lot to her. Now, I think if she were properly approached – squared, I believe, is the word you animals use – you could come to some

arrangement by which she would let you have her dress and bonnet and so on, and you could escape from the castle as the official washerwoman. You're very alike in many respects – particularly about the figure.'

'We're *not*,' said the Toad in a huff. 'I have a very elegant figure – for what I am.'

'So has my aunt,' replied the girl, 'for what *she* is. But have it your own way. You horrid, proud ungrateful animal, when I'm sorry for you, and trying to help you!'

'Yes, yes, that's all right; thank you very much indeed,' said the Toad hurriedly. 'But look here! you wouldn't surely have Mr. Toad, of Toad Hall, going about the country disguised as a washerwoman!'

'Then you can stop here as a Toad,' replied the girl with much spirit. 'I suppose you want to go off in a coach-and-four!'

Honest Toad was always ready to admit himself in the wrong. 'You are a good, kind, clever girl,' he said, 'and I am indeed a proud and stupid toad. Introduce me to your worthy aunt, if you will be so kind, and I have no doubt that the excellent lady and I will be able to arrange terms satisfactory to both parties.'

Next evening the girl ushered her aunt into Toad's cell, bearing his week's washing pinned up in a towel. The old lady had been prepared beforehand for the interview, and the sight of certain gold sovereigns that Toad had thoughtfully placed on the table in full view practically completed the matter and left little further to discuss. In return for his cash, Toad received a cotton print gown, an apron, a shawl, and a rusty black bonnet; the only stipulation the old lady made being that she should be gagged and bound and dumped down in a corner.

From *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

Underline the correct answers.

1 Why does the girl say her head hurts?

(she knocks it, Toad talks too much, Toad upset her)

2 What day of the week is it at the beginning of this passage?

(Monday, Thursday, Friday)

Answer these questions.

3-4 How does Toad feel about washerwomen in the beginning of the story? Pick out one piece of evidence to support your view.

5-6 Describe in your own words how you would have felt about Toad's reaction to the suggestion that he escapes the castle as a washerwoman, if you were the girl.

7 Why are some of the words in the passage written in *italics*?

8-10 The girl describes Toad as a 'horrid, proud and ungrateful animal' (line 21). Why do you think she used each of these **adjectives**?

11-12 What was the washerwoman's only demand and why do you think she made it?

Write two **antonyms** for each word.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|
| 13-14 ugly | _____ | _____ |
| 15-16 right | _____ | _____ |
| 17-18 sad | _____ | _____ |
| 19-20 kind | _____ | _____ |
| 21-22 whisper | _____ | _____ |

Underline the correct word in the brackets.

- 23 Tim (done, did) his homework.
24 Every boy (were, was) on the field.
25 They (are, was) late today.
26 All the men (were, was) working.
27 I (have, shall) eaten all the cakes.
28 We (have, shall) take the dog for a walk.
29 I dropped the bag but not one of the eggs (has, shall) broken.
30 They (will, were) collect the old bed.

Change these words into verbs by adding *en*, *ise* or *ify*.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
| 31 drama | _____ | 32 solid | _____ |
| 33 magnet | _____ | 34 thick | _____ |
| 35 terror | _____ | 36 weak | _____ |
| 37 black | _____ | 38 fertile | _____ |