

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comprehension Test**  
**The Wind in the Willows**  
**By Kenneth Grahame**

- You have 35 minutes to complete this comprehension task.
- You should take 5 minutes to read the passage before answering the questions.
- Make sure you read the instruction to each question to know how many options you would need to select.
- If you change your mind, make sure that you rub out (erase) the option before selecting another one.
- If you have time remaining, check your answers.

## Reading Passage: The Wind in the Willows

Read the passage and answer the questions below.

They got the boat out, and the Rat took the sculls, paddling with caution. Out in midstream, there was a clear, narrow track that faintly reflected the sky; but wherever shadows fell on the water from bank, bush, or tree, they were just as solid to all appearance **5.**as the banks themselves, and the Mole had to steer with judgement accordingly. Dark and deserted as it was, the night was full of small noises, song and chatter and rustling, telling of the busy little population who were up and about, plying their trades and vocations through the night till sunshine should fall on them **10.**at last and send them off to their well-earned repose. The water's own noises, too, were more apparent than by day, its gurgling and 'cloops' more unexpected and near at hand; and constantly they started what seemed a sudden clear call from an actual, articulate voice.

**15.**The line of the horizon was clear and hard against the sky, and in one particular quarter it showed black against a silvery climbing phosphorescence that grew and grew. At last, over the rim of the waiting earth the moon lifted with slow majesty till it swung clear of the horizon and rode off, free of moorings; and once more **20.**they began to see surfaces – meadows wide-spread, and quiet gardens, and the river itself from bank to bank, all softly disclosed, all washed clean of mystery and terror, all radiant again as by day, but with a difference that was tremendous. Their old haunts greeted them again in other raiment, as if they had slipped away **25.**and put on this pure, new apparel and come quietly back, smiling as they shyly waited to see if they would be recognised again under it.

Fastening their boat to a willow, the friends landed in this silent, silver kingdom, and patiently explored the hedges, the hollow trees, the runnels and their little culverts, the ditches and dry waterways. Embarking again and crossing over, they worked their **30.**way up stream in this manner, while the moon, serene and detached in a cloudless sky, did what she could, though so far off, to help them in their quest; till her hour came and she sank earthwards reluctantly, and left them, and mystery once more held field and river. Then a change began slowly to declare itself. **35.**The horizon became clearer, field and tree came more into

sight, and somehow with a different look; the mystery began to drop away from them. A bird piped suddenly, and was still; and a light breeze sprang up and set the reeds and bulrushes rustling. Rat, who was in the stern of the boat, while Mole sculled, sat up **40.** suddenly and listened with a passionate intentness. Mole, who with gently strokes was just keeping the boat moving while he scanned the banks with care, looked at him with curiosity.

'It's gone!' sighed the Rat, sinking back in his seat again. 'So beautiful and strange and new. Since it was to end so soon, I **45.** almost wish I had never heard it. For it has roused a longing in me that is pain, and nothing seems worthwhile but just to hear that sound once more and go on listening to it forever. No! there it is again!' he cried, alert once more. Entranced, he was silent for a long space, spellbound.

**50.** 'Now it passes on, and I begin to lose it,' he said presently. 'O Mole! The beauty of it! The merry bubble and joy; the thin, clear, happy call of the distant piping! Such music I never dreamed of, and the call in it is stronger even than the music is sweet! Row on, Mole, row! For the music and the call must be for us.'

**55.** The Mole, greatly wondering, obeyed. 'I hear nothing myself,' he said, 'but the wind playing in the reeds and rushes and the osiers.'

The Rat never answered, if indeed he heard. Rapt, transported, trembling, he was possessed in all his senses by this new diving thing that caught up his helpless soul and swung and dandled it, a **60.** powerless but happy infant in a strong sustaining grasp.

In silence Mole rowed steadily, and soon they came to a point where the river divided, a long backwater branching off to one side. With a slight movement of his head Rat, who had longed dropped rudder-lines, directed the rower to take the backwater.

**65.** The creeping tide of light gained and gained, and now they could see the colour of the flowers that gemmed the water's edge.

'Clearer and nearer still,' cried the Rat joyously. 'Now you must surely hear it! Ah – at least – I see you do!'

Breathless and transfixed the Mole stopped rowing as the liquid  
**70.**run of that glad piping broke on him like a wave, caught him  
up, and possessed him utterly. He saw the tears in his comrade's  
cheeks and bowed his head and understood. For a space they hung  
there, brushed by the purple loose-strife that fringed the bank;  
then the clear imperious summons that marched hand-in-hand  
**75.**with the intoxicating melody imposed its will on Mole, and  
mechanically he bent to his oars again. And the light grew steadily  
stronger, but no birds sang as they were won't to do at the  
approach of dawn; and but for the heavenly music all was  
marvellous still.

**Answer the following question by shading the correct options  
A B C D E on the answer sheet.**

1. Why was Rat Paddling with caution? (line 1) Select **TWO** correct answers.

- A. He was inexperienced with the sculls.
- B. He was exhausted.
- C. Rat had difficulty seeing where he was going.
- D. There was a fallen tree in the river.
- E. The shadows cast by the bank and vegetation made the river difficult to navigate.

2. Which of the following are true about the 'busy little population'? (line 8) **Select all the correct answers.**

- A. They are nocturnal.
- B. They forage.
- C. They are silent.
- D. They communicate with their own kind.
- E. They sleep during the day.

3. What writing stylistic techniques are 'gurgling' and 'cloops'? **Select the correct option.**

- A. metaphor
- B. alliteration
- C. personification
- D. onomatopoeia
- E. pathetic fallacy

4. Which of these are not synonyms of 'repose' (line 10)? **Select all the correct answers.**

- A. sleep
- B. rest
- C. activity
- D. relaxation
- E. amusement

5. Which of these belong to the same word family as 'myself'? (line 55) Select **ONE** correct answer.

- A. our    B. soon    C. until    D. slight    E. broke

6. Which words can replace 'phosphorescence'? (line 17) **Select all the correct answers.**

- A. glow
- B. combustion
- C. shadow
- D. radiance
- E. luminosity

7. What technique is used from 'Their old haunts... again under it'? (paragraph 2) **Select the correct answer.**

- A. exaggeration
- B. hyperbole
- C. personification
- D. oxymoron
- E. simile

8. What does paragraph 3 reveal about the moon? **Select the correct answer.**

- A. It began to disappear eastwards as the sun appeared.
- B. It was a full moon which shone brightly, illuminating the earth.
- C. It rode off on a silver horse.
- D. It cast a silvery glow against the horizon.
- E. Its brightness aided Rat and Mole in their exploration.

9. Which of the following are synonyms of 'raiment' (line 24) and 'apparel'? (line 25) Select the **TWO** correct answers.

- A. garments
- B. footwear
- C. clothes
- D. jewellery
- E. disguises

10. **Select the correct response.** 'silent, silver kingdom' (lines 28-29) is an example of:

- A. onomatopoeia and simile
- B. alliteration and personification
- C. alliteration and metaphor
- D. hyperbole and pathetic fallacy
- E. rhetoric and simile

11. What part of speech are 'serene, detached, cloudless' as used in paragraph 3, (lines 30-31)? **Select ONE correct answer.**

- A. adjectives
- B. verbs
- C. nouns
- D. adverb
- E. conjunctions

12. **Select all the correct answers.** 'Entranced' (line 48) cannot be replaced by:

- A. determined
- B. captivated
- C. spellbound
- D. agitated
- E. apprehensive

13. Which of the following is not an event that occurred in paragraph 4? **Select the correct option.**

- A. The surrounding became more apparent.
- B. A bird song was heard briefly.
- C. A gentle breeze blew and rustled the reeds.
- D. Rat rowed the boat while Mole sat behind him.
- E. Mole was concerned about his friend.

14. Which of these did not happen after the bird song in paragraph 4? **Select all the correct options.**

- A. Mole ceased rowing and listened intently.
- B. Rat began whistling in his effort to attract the bird.
- C. Rat spotted the bird and urged Mole to paddle faster.
- D. The friends decided to abandon their quest.
- E. Rat listened more intently in the hope that he would hear the bird song again.



15. To what was Rat referring when he declared 'It's gone'? (line 43)  
**Select the correct answer.**

- A. The horizon
- B. The moon
- C. The night
- D. The bird
- E. Hope of hearing the song again.

16. Which word cannot replace 'roused' as used in the passage?  
(line 45) Select **TWO** correct answers.

- A. stirred up
- B. bemused
- C. calmed      D. stimulated
- E. excited

17. What is Mole's initial reaction to the bird song? **Select the correct option.**

- A. Baffled, since he had not heard it.
- B. Enraptured by its melody.
- C. Eager to find the source.
- D. Irritated by Rat's reaction to it.
- E. Unimpressed by his friend's over enthusiasm.

18. What does 'dandled' mean as used in line 59? **Select the correct response.**

- A. squashed
- B. discovered
- C. played with
- D. chased
- E. disturbed it.

19. **Select all the options which are NOT true** .The friends came to a point where:

- A. The river forked.
- B. The river flowed straight into another river.
- C. The river came to an abrupt end.
- D. The river began to wind uphill.
- E. The river flowed into the open sea.

20. 'The creeping tide of light gained and gained' (line 65). What technique does this employ and what does it suggest? **Select one answer.**

- A. A direct metaphor suggesting that the light was becoming too intense and blinding'.
- B. Personification suggesting that it was becoming bright enough for things to be more distinct.
- C. Literal suggesting that the tide was coming in from a nearby sea.
- D. An indirect metaphor suggesting that it was quickly becoming bright enough to reveal the colours of the flowers.
- E. Exaggeration since there was just a small amount of light.

21. Select **TWO** correct options. The phrase, 'flowers that gemmed the water's edge' (line 66) is:

- A. Metaphor that describes how the edge of the river is lined by brightly coloured flowers.
- B. A similes that describes the jewel -like colours of the flowers.
- C. Alliteration to describe the variety of colours.
- D. Exaggeration - the flowers are not that colourful.
- E. A figure of speech to describe the colourful flowers around the edge of the river.

22. '...broke on him like a wave...' (line 70) is an example of what language technique? **Select the correct answer.**

- A. metaphor
- B. onomatopoeia
- C. simile
- D. hyperbole
- E. pathetic fallacy

23. **Select the correct option.** The noun form of 'patiently, serene, happy, presently' are:

- A. patient, serenity, happily, presence
- B. patience, serenity, happiness, presence
- C. patientness, serenally, happiness, present
- D. patience, serenity, happiest, present
- E. patient, serenely, happily, presentest

24. 'stronger' (line 77) is what part of speech? **Select the correct option.**

- A. superlative adjective
- B. comparative adjective
- C. common noun
- D. abstract noun
- E. proper adjective

25. The word 'won't' (line 77) can be replaced by which of the following? **Select TWO correct options.**

- A. used to
- B. forced
- C. accustomed
- D. told
- E. advised

**End of Comprehension**

**Answer sheet**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_

Mark your answer on the answer sheet by shading the correct option/s.

- |     |    |                          |    |                          |    |                          |    |                          |    |                          |
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| 1.  | A. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2.  | A. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| 18. | A. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19. | A. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20. | A. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21. | A. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22. | A. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23. | A. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24. | A. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 25. | A. | <input type="checkbox"/> | B. | <input type="checkbox"/> | C. | <input type="checkbox"/> | D. | <input type="checkbox"/> | E. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## Answers

<b>1. C E</b> 1 mark	<b>2. A B D E</b> 2 marks	<b>3. D</b> 1 mark	<b>4. C E</b> 2 marks	<b>5. A</b> 1 mark
<b>6. A D E</b> 2 marks	<b>7. C</b> 1 mark	<b>8. E</b> 1 mark	<b>9. A C</b> 1 mark	<b>10. C</b> 1 mark
<b>11. A</b> 1 mark	<b>12. A D E</b> 2 marks	<b>13. D</b> 1 mark	<b>14. A B C D</b> 2 marks	<b>15. E</b> 1 mark
<b>16. B C</b> 1 mark	<b>17. A</b> 1 mark	<b>18. C</b> 1 mark	<b>19. A</b> 1 mark	<b>20. D</b> 1 mark
<b>21. A E</b> 1 mark	<b>22. C</b> 1 mark	<b>23. B</b> 1 mark	<b>24. B</b> 1 mark	<b>25 A C</b> 1 mark