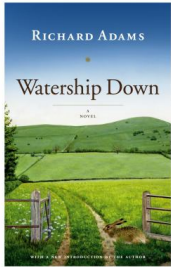


Books by the Stack



***Watership Down* by Richard Adams**

An allegorical tale of survival about a band of wild rabbits who leave their ancestral home to build a more humane society chronicles their adventures as they search for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace.

Why you'll like it: *Anthropomorphic, world-building, moving, lyrical.*

About the Author: Richard George Adams was born in Newbury, England. He enrolled at the University of Oxford in 1938, but his studies were interrupted by World War II. After the war, he returned to Oxford and received a degree in history in 1948. His first his novel, *Watership Down*, was published in 1972. It received the Carnegie Medal in Literature in 1972 and the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize in 1973. He died in 2016 at the age of 96. (Bowker Author Biography)

Questions for Discussion

1. What did you think of *Watership Down* overall? Why do you think its joined the list of classics?
2. Why rabbits? Can you imagine *Watership Down* with some other type of animal—wolves, cats, snakes, little children? Who's your favorite rabbit? Why?
3. What is the significance of Fiver's vision? Why does the Threarah dismiss Fiver's warning?
4. How does Hazel end up being the group leader? What are his personality traits that allow him to lead? Does Fiver have something to do with Hazel being leader?
5. Rabbits are creatures of habit. How is that such a relatively large group of rabbits is willing to leave with Hazel and Fiver? What is the significance of crossing the Enborne River?
6. Assuming each of the warrens can be viewed as a metaphor for a way that people live their lives, what does the warren of snares represent? What problems do the rabbits encounter in building a new warren?
7. What is the role of the stories that the rabbits tell inside the novel? Do they interrupt the main story about Hazel's rabbits? Do the stories of El-ahrairah have some connection to the main story?
8. How is General Woundwart like other dictators in human history? What methods does he use to control his community, and how are these similar to methods that have been used in repressive regimes throughout history?
9. Do you think there's a historical lesson in the book? Is this book (written in the 1970s) modeled on some particular historical event or era? If the book has a lesson, does that lesson matter today?

(Questions provided by Shmoop.com and kkravit.wordpress.com)

