

Wind in the Willows - 6: Mr Toad

Mole, Rat and Badger decide to take Toad in hand...but Toad has other ideas.

Task 1: Listen to Chapter 6 of Wind in the Willows at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/english-ks2-the-wind-in-the-willows-episode-6-mr-toad/zbwh2sg>

Task 2: Read the excerpt taken from Chapter 6

'To my mind,' observed the Chairman of the Bench of Magistrates cheerfully, 'the ONLY difficulty that presents itself in this otherwise very clear case is, how we can possibly make it sufficiently hot for the rogue cowering in the dock before us. Let me see: he has been found guilty on the clearest evidence, first, of stealing a valuable motor-car; secondly, of driving to the public danger; and, thirdly, of gross impertinence to the rural police. Mr. Clerk, will you tell us, please, what is the very stiffest penalty we can impose for each of these offences? The Clerk scratched his nose with his pen. 'Supposing you were to say twelve months for the theft, which is mild; and three years for the furious driving, and fifteen years for the cheek, those figures, if added together correctly, tot up to nineteen years -' 'First-rate!' said the Chairman. 'So you had better make it a round twenty years and be on the safe side,' concluded the Clerk. 'An excellent suggestion!' said the Chairman approvingly. 'Prisoner! Pull yourself together and try and stand up straight. It's going to be twenty years for you this time. And mind, if you appear before us again, upon any charge whatever, we shall have to deal with you very seriously!' Toad, loaded with chains, was dragged from the Court House, shrieking, praying, protesting; across the marketplace, across the hollow sounding drawbridge, below the spiky portcullis, under the frowning archway of the grim old castle, whose ancient towers soared high overhead; till they reached the door of the grimmest dungeon. The rusty key creaked in the lock, the great door clanged behind them; Toad was a helpless prisoner in the remotest dungeon of the best guarded keep of the stoutest castle in all the length and breadth of Merry England.

Toad is imprisoned twice, once by his friends - at the beginning of the chapter and by the magistrate at the end of the chapter.

Task 3: Complete the following tasks.

Why do you think Toad's friends lock him away at the beginning of the chapter? Were they being good friends?

Do you think Toad deserves the 20 year prison sentence ?

Does Toad deserve a 20-year prison sentence?

At the end of Episode 6 Toad is sentenced to a 20-year sentence in 'the remotest dungeon of the best-guarded keep of the stoutest castle' in England. But do you think he deserves his sentence?

Write below reasons why Toad *does* deserve his sentence...and reasons why he *does not*.

Reasons 'Yes'	Reasons 'No'
	