

Watership Down

Student Reader's Companion

A Classroom Guide for Readers





PART TWO

The Land of Snares and Stones

Having left Sandleford, the rabbits face new dangers. They must navigate a treacherous landscape of human fields, evade clever predators, and decipher a mysterious warren where comfort hides a deadly truth. Their bond is tested as they search for a true home.

Chapter 18: Watership Down

Vocabulary

- Lurid
- Precipitous
- Myriad
- Tenacious
- Reconnoiter
- Indolence
- Scrupulous
- Prudence
- Fatigue
- Undulated
- Hover

Reading Questions

1. Who takes the lead in finding a secure place for the group to settle?
2. What practical steps allow the rabbits to begin building a sustainable life on the Down?





Chapter 19: Fear in the Dark

Vocabulary

- Trample
- Vagabond
- Audible
- Reluctant
- Summit
- Perplex

Reading Questions

1. What evidence suggests that the abandoned holes were left in a hurry or under threat?
2. Who is heard crying in the darkness, and what does his condition reveal about recent events?

Chapter 20: A Honeycomb and a Mouse



Vocabulary

- Intermittent
- Grimace
- Vindictive
- Suppress
- Excavation
- Callous
- Oblique



Reading Questions

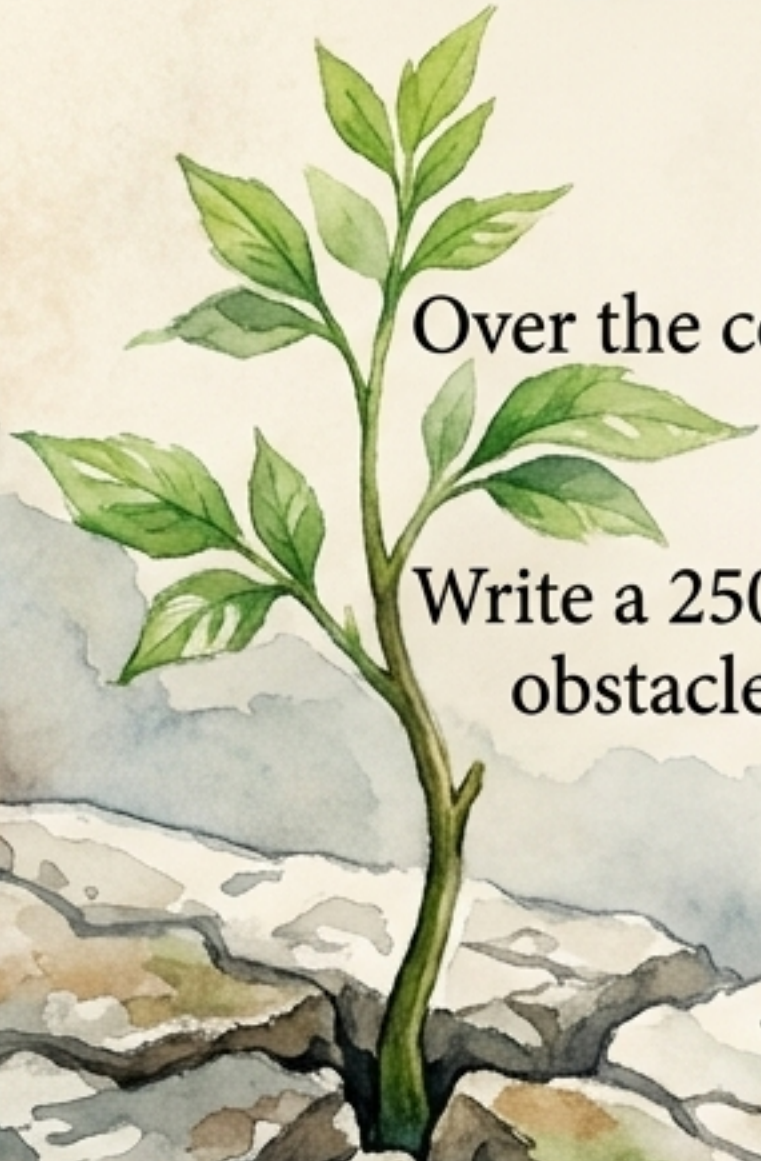
1. Why is the large central burrow given the name “Honeycomb”?
2. What useful knowledge does the mouse bring to the rabbits, and why does it matter?

Checkpoint Writing Task

Personal Narrative

Over the course of this story the rabbits have had to overcome many obstacles.

Write a 250–350 word descriptive paper detailing an obstacle that you have had to overcome in life.



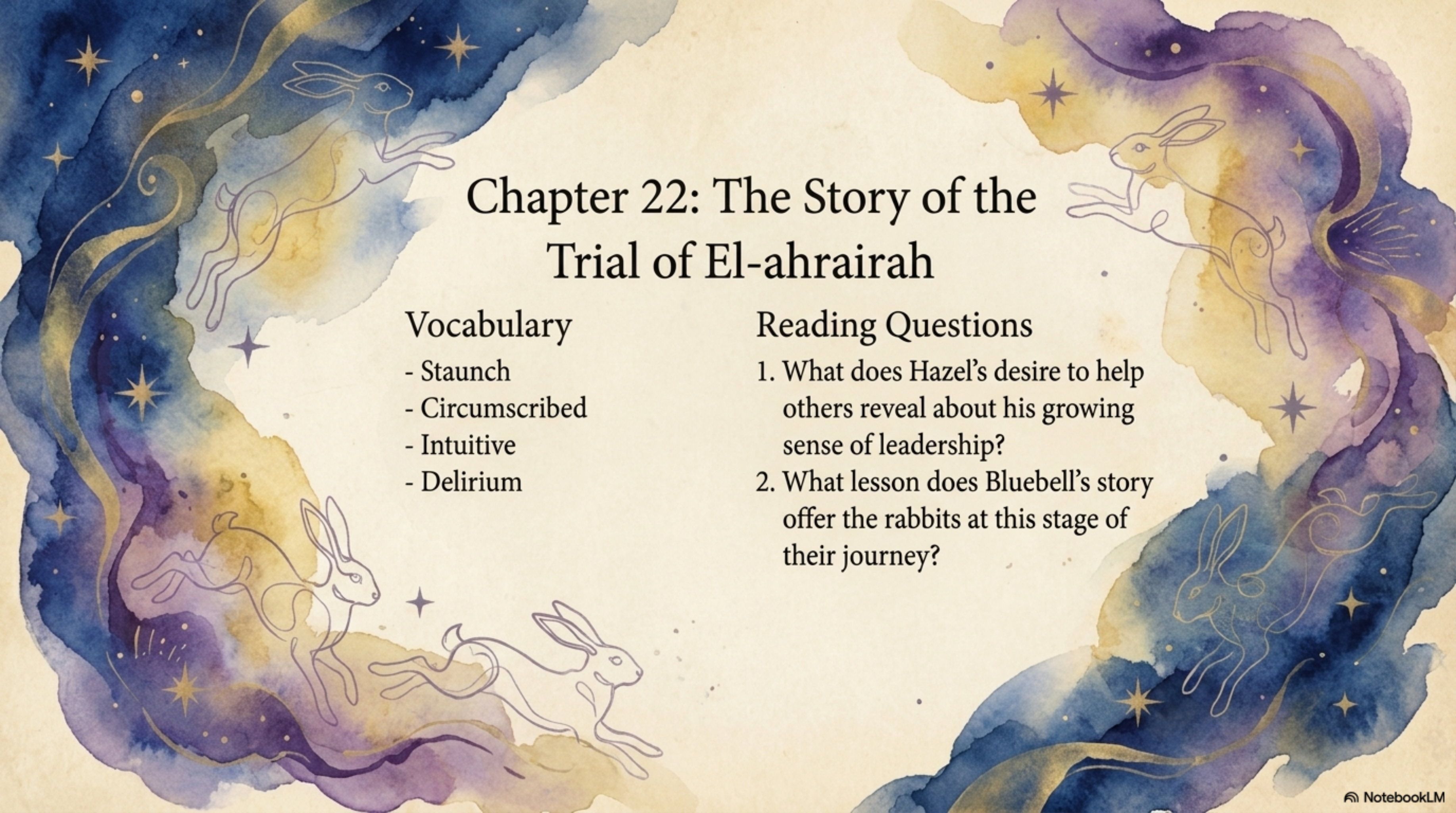
Chapter 21: For El-ahrairah to Cry

Vocabulary

- Prophecy
- Commotion

Reading Questions

1. What combination of human actions and natural forces destroyed Sandleford Warren?
2. How does Toadflax explain the destruction, and how convincing is his view?
3. What deeper meaning lies in Holly's final words in the chapter?



Chapter 22: The Story of the Trial of El-ahrairah

Vocabulary

- Staunch
- Circumscribed
- Intuitive
- Delirium

Reading Questions

1. What does Hazel's desire to help others reveal about his growing sense of leadership?
2. What lesson does Bluebell's story offer the rabbits at this stage of their journey?

Chapter 23: Kehaar

Vocabulary

- Proverb
- Coruscated
- Raucous
- Docile
- Peremptory
- Jester

Reading Questions

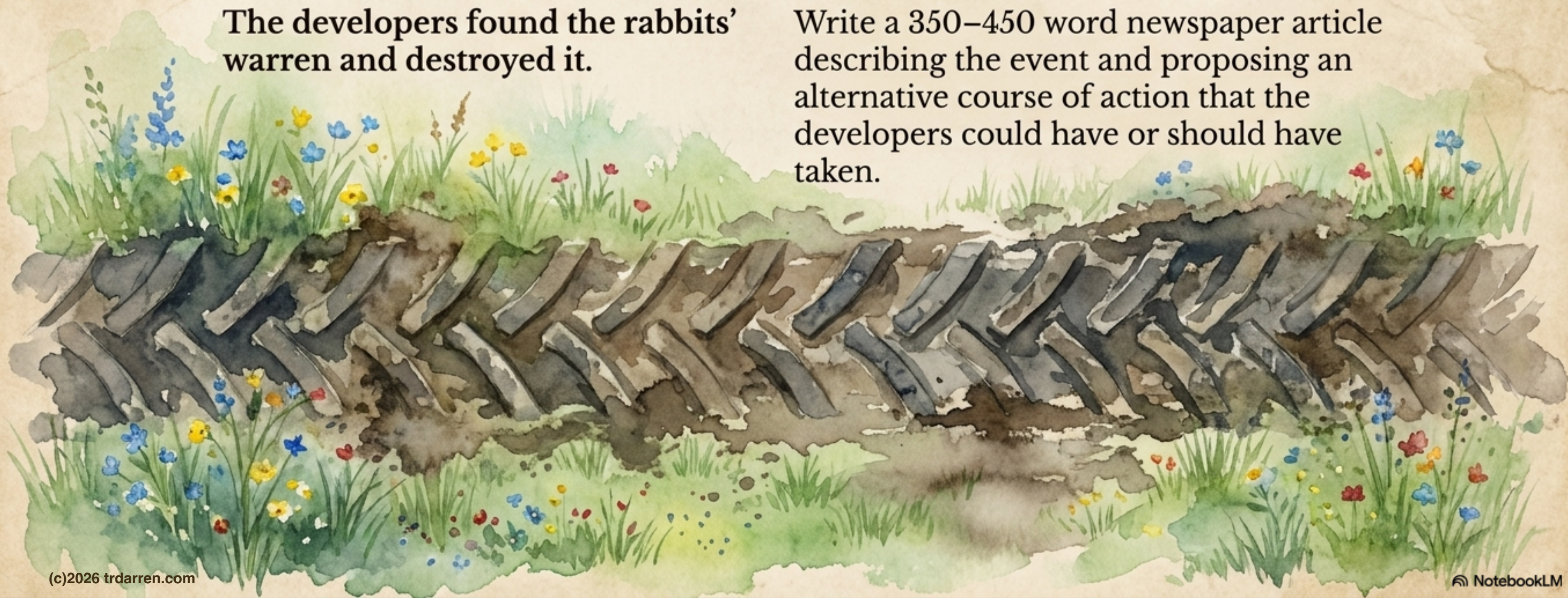
1. What kind of bird do the rabbits encounter, and what makes him unusual as an ally?
2. Who is selected for the journey to the human settlement, and what is the group hoping to achieve?

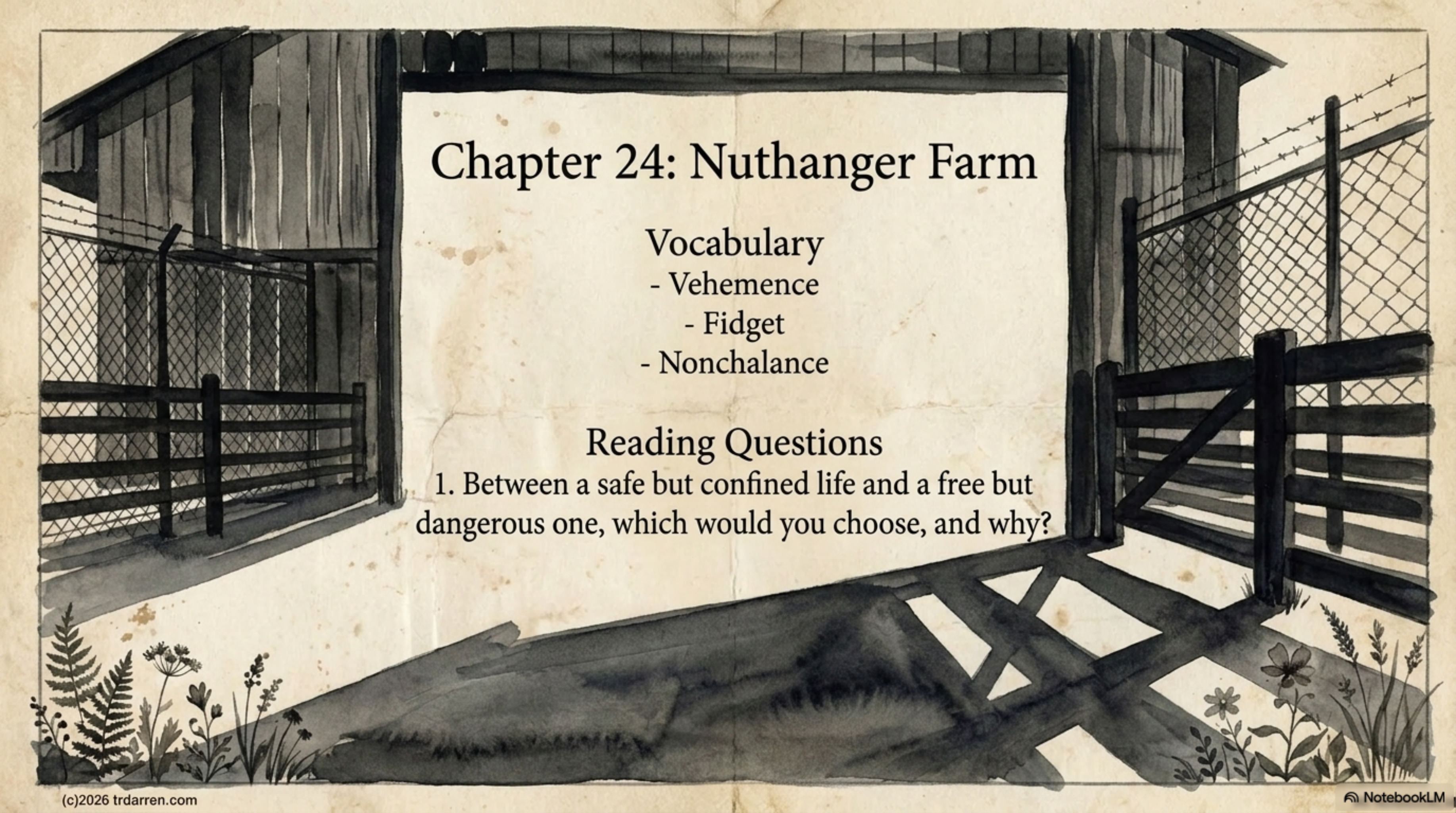
Checkpoint Writing Task

Newspaper Article

The developers found the rabbits' warren and destroyed it.

Write a 350–450 word newspaper article describing the event and proposing an alternative course of action that the developers could have or should have taken.





Chapter 24: Nuthanger Farm

Vocabulary

- Vehemence
- Fidget
- Nonchalance

Reading Questions

1. Between a safe but confined life and a free but dangerous one, which would you choose, and why?

Chapter 25: The Raid

Vocabulary

- Raid
- Acquiesced
- Inert

Reading Questions

1. What mixed emotions do the rabbits experience after the raid, and what do these feelings reveal?

Chapter 26: Fiver Beyond

Vocabulary

- Disconsolately

Reading Questions

1. What does the chapter title suggest about Fiver's unique role within the group?

Checkpoint Writing Task

Argumentative / Discursive Essay

Gun violence is a major problem in America.

Write a 350-word argumentative or discursive essay proposing either:

- a solution to the issue, or
- an argument supporting gun control laws in the United States.



“Chapter 27: You Can’t Imagine It
Unless You’ve Been There”

Vocabulary

- Conceal
- Embassy
- Conscientious
- Comradeship
- Decency

Reading Questions

1. How do the rabbits of Efrafa try to remain hidden from the outside world?
2. What signs indicate that Woundwort’s system is beginning to fail?
3. What powerful force separates Holly’s group from the Efrafan patrol?



Chapter 28: At the Foot of the Hill

Vocabulary

- Stupor
- Solely
- Apparition
- Devised

Reading Questions

1. Should the rabbits consider returning to Efrafa despite the risks? Justify your view.

Chapter 29: Return & Departure

Vocabulary

- Cryptically
- Indignation
- Obligated
- Scheme
- Demeanor

Reading Questions

1. What does Kehaar mean by saying Fiver has “traveled further” than he has?
2. What new course of action appears to be forming among the rabbits?

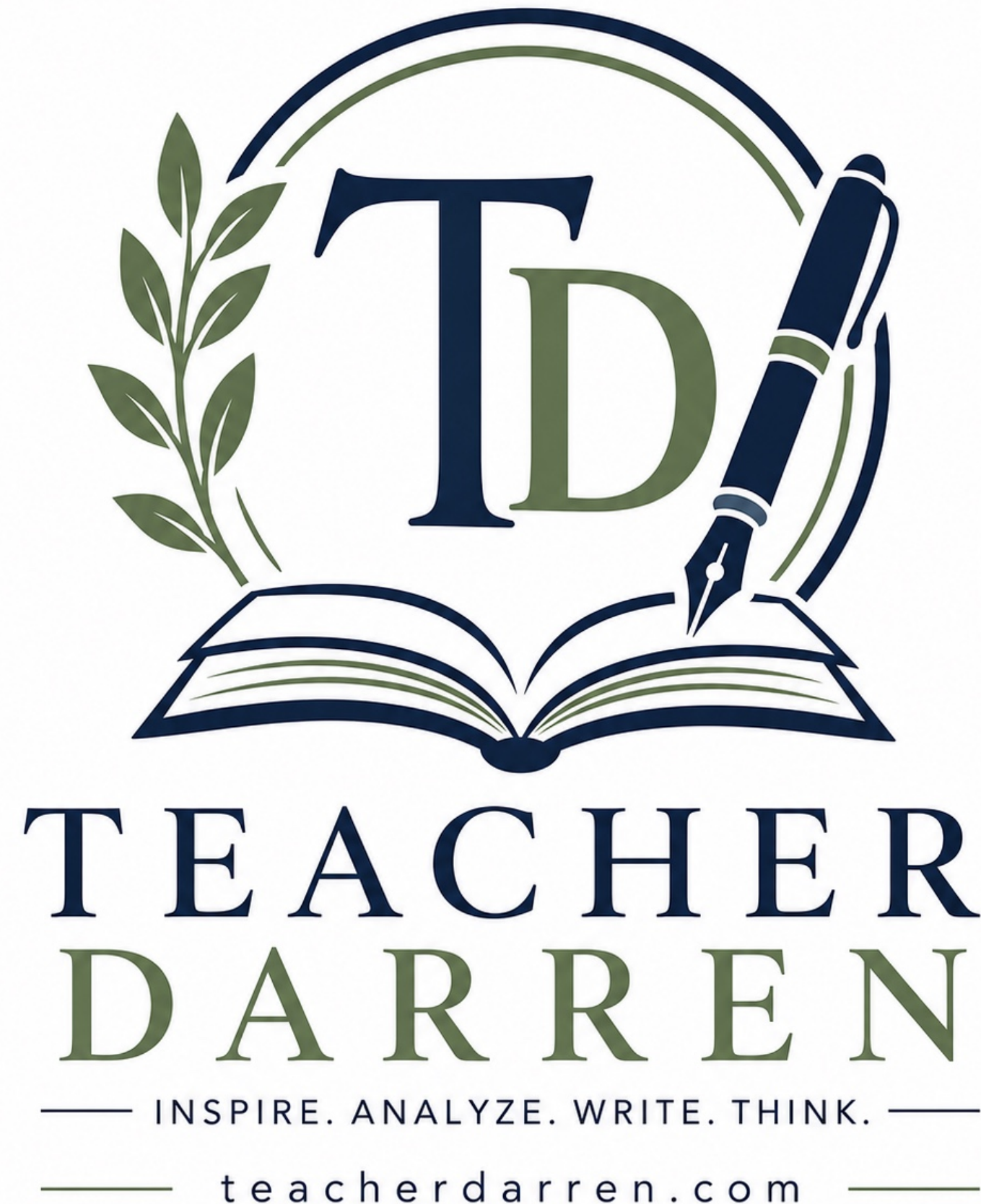
Final Checkpoint Essay

World War II Connections

In his autobiography, *The Day Gone By*, Richard Adams explained that he based ***Watership Down*** and many of its stories on the men of the **250 Airborne Light Company, Royal Army Service Corps**, particularly their role during the **Battle of Arnhem** in September 1944.

Write a **350–450 word essay** explaining how *Watership Down* may be based on events during **World War II**. Support your response with examples from the novel and explain how the rabbits' experiences parallel those faced by soldiers during the war.





About the Author

Mitchell Darren Carter is an American international educator with more than a decade of experience teaching English, literature, debate, and critical thinking in Taiwan, Vietnam, and Indonesia. He currently teaches Cambridge IGCSE English at Springfield School in Jakarta, Indonesia, where he designs rigorous, engaging curriculum for multilingual learners.

Before entering education, Mitchell spent more than fifteen years in executive management before pursuing a career in ministry. These diverse professional experiences have shaped a teaching philosophy centered on critical thinking, authentic communication, and meaningful learning.

Mitchell holds a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministries, a Master of Arts in Theological Studies, and a Master of Education in Advanced Teaching and 21st Century Learning. His work focuses on designing scaffolded instructional resources that help students become thoughtful readers, confident writers, and independent analytical thinkers.

His classroom materials emphasize close reading, Writer's Effect, vocabulary development, and evidence-based literary analysis while remaining accessible to English language learners. Every resource is developed through classroom practice and refined to support student engagement and long-term learning.

When he is not teaching or writing curriculum, Mitchell enjoys classic literature, educational technology, travel throughout Asia, and spending time with his family and three cats.

For additional teaching resources, visit teacherdarren.com.



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