

Answers

1. How do we know that Mole did not like spring cleaning? How can you tell?
The Mole became fed up with spring cleaning because he says 'bother' and throws down his brush before rushing out. If he was enjoying it, he might have finished his painting job before going outside.
2. Why did Mole have 'an aching back and weary arms'?
Mole had been cleaning for a long time and standing on stools and chairs to paint with white paint. That would have made his back and arms ache because it takes a lot of effort to stretch up to clean and paint.
3. What leads you to think that Mole lived under the ground? Find and copy clues from the text.
I think that Mole lived underground because the text says that he needed to climb up the tunnel, 'nearer to the sun and air'; he describes that there is 'something up above'; and tells us that Mole says, "Up we go! Up we go!" as he popped out into the sun.
4. How does the description of the grass and the sun help to tell you the time of day?
I think it is almost lunchtime because the grass is described as 'warm' and the 'sunshine felt hot', so it must be quite late in the morning for a spring day to be so warm.
5. Where do you think Mole was going? What do you think he was going to do?
I think the Mole was going to find a friend to chat to as he had been working very hard by himself. He was fed up of painting under the ground so he was looking for company and to have a rest in the sunshine.

Answers

1. Why would Mole have an 'uneasy conscience'?

Mole has been working hard and he may feel like he has to keep working as all the animals that he sees are busy with their jobs. He may have a nagging feeling that he should be working rather than enjoying the fresh air and sunshine.

2. Do you think that Mole really believes that it is better to be resting on holiday, or watching others work? Why?

I think the Mole seems very happy to be resting as it says, 'he somehow could only feel how jolly it was to be the only lazy animal', and 'best part of a holiday is...to see all the other animals busy working.'

3. Why had Mole 'never...seen a river before'?

Mole had never seen a river before because he spends most of his time in his underground tunnels and burrow.

4. What does the description that the river 'chattered' tell you about how it sounded?

I think that describing that the river 'chattered' tells the reader that it sounds friendly and easy to get along with. The author also uses the word, 'babbling' to describe the sound and that is also a sociable way to describe how someone talks. Giving the river pleasant human qualities makes it sound like a good friend.

5. How could the river tell stories of the world if it was located in one place?

The river could tell stories of the world because the riverbed and bank will stay in one place, but the water in it will flow out to the sea and eventually, around the world in the oceans and maybe back to the riverbank where Mole is again, ready to tell its stories.

Answers

1. How do you think Mole felt as he saw something move on the opposite bank?
I think Mole would feel curious and interested by the movement on the opposite bank. The author uses words like 'dreamily' when Mole was thinking that it would be a lovely place to live and 'twinkling' to describe its appearance. He does not seem afraid or anxious at all.
2. Why did the animals 'regard each other cautiously?'
The animals had not met before and eying each other cautiously would be their way to check to see if they were a friend or an enemy to each other.
3. Why did Rat wait until 'presently' to invite Mole to the other side of the bank?
The Rat was going to wait until he was sure the Mole was not an enemy before inviting him over to the other side of the bank. 'Presently' is a way of saying that he did not rush into things, but waited until he was sure that Mole would not be a threat.
4. What do you think the Mole was feeling when he saw Rat's boat? How do you know?
I think the Mole fell in love with the boat as soon as he saw it because it says 'his whole heart went out to it at once' even though he did not really know what it was for.
5. When the Mole and Rat got back to Rat's home, what do you think they might do?
Give reasons for your opinion.
I think that Rat and Mole would get to know each other when they arrived at Rat's home. If Rat did not want to be friendly, he would not have invited Mole and offered to help him get across the river. If Mole did not want to be friendly, he would have declined the offer to visit Rat's home.