

Issue 13

# Bitty Bulls



Welcome to 2013, Bitty Bull friends! In this issue you can jump into a fun story about some animal friends and their escapades. Bitty Bull wishes you a toadally wonderful year full of adventure and friendships.



## Kenneth Grahame

1859-1932

Kenneth Grahame was born in March 8, 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland. When he was about a year old his family moved to a seaside town where he happily lived until he was five. There his mother died in childbirth with his youngest brother. His father, unable to care for Kenneth and his two brothers and sister, sent them to live with their grandmother. Living there the children were allowed to freely explore the surrounding woods and waterways. Kenneth's uncle introduced him to boating on the River Thames. Later, because of the cost, Kenneth was unable to attend Oxford University and instead worked at the Bank of England. He worked hard and eventually was promoted to Secretary of the bank before he retired in 1908. In 1899 he married Elspeth Thomsan and they had one child, Alastair or "Mouse". His son was partially blind and sickly and died at the age of 19. Throughout Alastair's childhood, Grahame told him many bedtime stories about the adventures of Mole, Water Rat, shy Badger, and daring Mr. Toad that would eventually become the well known classic ***The Wind in the Willows***. The main character, Mr. Toad, with his head strong nature, was based on his own son Alastair. *The Wind in the Willows* was published in 1908 and became a favorite among both children and adults. Grahame published many other stories for newspapers as a young adult, including ***The Reluctant Dragon***, but *The Wind in the Willows* remains the best known and loved of all of his stories. He died in 1932.



"There's nothing--absolutely nothing--half so much worth doing as messing about in boats."

## Ad-ven-ture

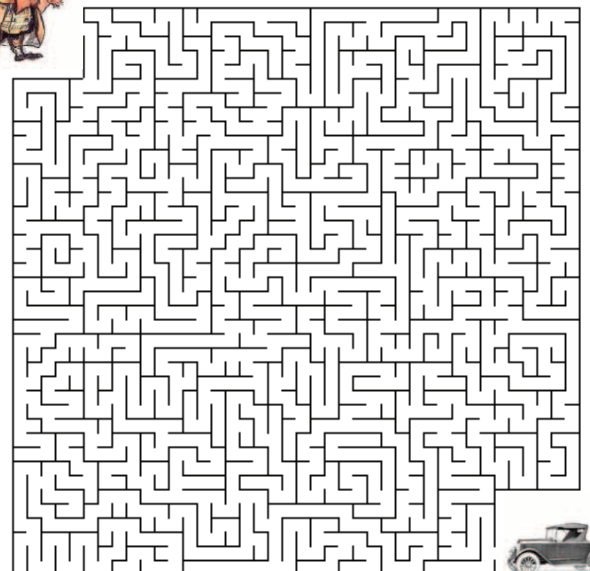
noun: an exciting or remarkable experience, sometimes involving danger or risks

Mr. Toad dreamed of going on adventures. If you could go anywhere and do anything, what would it be?

Write to [bittybulls@turnbullclan.com](mailto:bittybulls@turnbullclan.com) and let us know!



Mr. Toad put on his driving gloves. Help him find his way to his roadster so he can set off on an adventure!



## Book Nook~

***Return to the Willows*** by Jacqueline Kelly (288 pages, ages 8+)

Enjoy more fun adventures with the same four river friends. Beautifully illustrated.

***The Reluctant Dragon*** by Kenneth Grahame (48 pages, ages 7+)

A boy discovers a dragon in a cave, but the dragon turns out to be nothing like expected in a fairytale. Whimsically illustrated by well known children's literature artist Michael Hague.



"Here today, up and off to somewhere else tomorrow! Travel, change, interest, excitement! The whole world before you, and a horizon that's always changing!"



## Mr. Toad's Friendship Toast

Design your own special toast and share with a friend!

### Ingredients:

Bread slices  
Food coloring  
Small paint brushes  
One small glass of milk per color  
Butter, Honey, or Jam  
Toaster

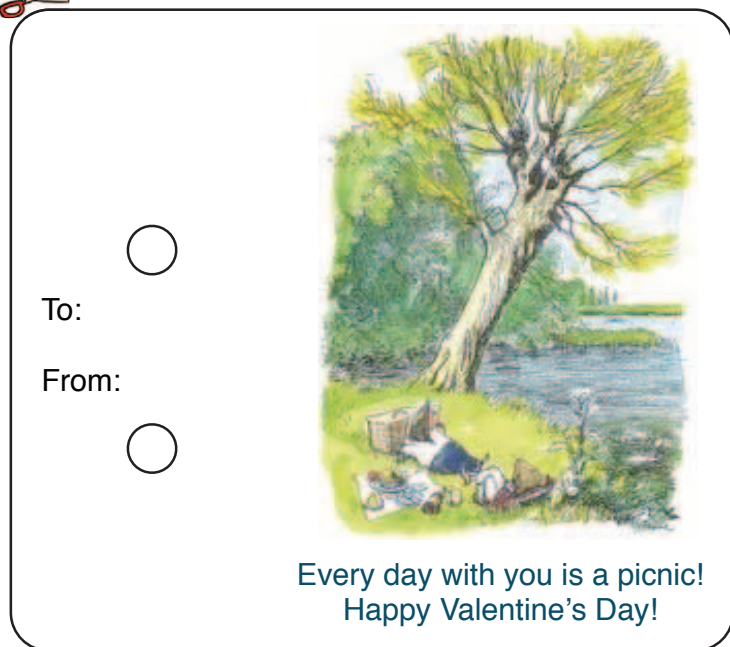
### Directions:

1. Mix in a few drops of food color into each glass of milk
2. Using brush paint a funny face or write a silly message onto the toast
3. Toast as desired
4. Top with butter, honey, or jam
5. Share with a friend and enjoy!

"When the girl returned, some hours later, she carried a tray, with a cup of fragrant tea steaming on it; and a plate piled up with very hot buttered toast, cut thick, very brown on both sides, with the butter running through the holes in great golden drops, like honey from the honeycomb. The smell of that buttered toast simply talked to Toad, and with no uncertain voice; talked of warm kitchens, of breakfasts on bright frosty mornings, of cosy parlour firesides on winter evenings, when one's ramble was over and slippered feet were propped on the fender, of the purring of contented cats, and the twitter of sleepy canaries."

~All quotes and illustrations taken from *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

**February 14th is Valentine's Day.** Celebrate your friendships by making some *The Wind in the Willows* Valentine cards to give away. Copy cards onto card stock, cut out, and punch out circles to slide a lollipop through holes. Give away to a special friend.



## What's the Difference Between...

Toads

&

Frogs

- Don't need to live near water to survive
- Have rough, dry, and bumpy skin
- Wider, fatter bodies
- Eyes are lower on head and oval shaped
- Hind legs are shorter
- Don't jump, but take small hops
- Skin emits a bitter smell and taste when threatened by a predator

- Need to live near water to survive
- Skin is smooth and moist
- Skinny bodies
- Eyes are high on head and round
- Hind legs are long and strong
- Jump great distances
- Make a tasty meal for many predators

**You don't get warts from touching either one!**

