

# Important Note for Parents

This is an important note regarding the book *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. Please take a moment to read this before beginning this book with your child.

Within this book, the word "gypsy" is used several times.

We want to give parents a heads-up that this word is included in this book, so that they can decide if they want to alter the text as they read out loud to their child, address it with their child prior to their reading it (together or independently), etc.

This word is considered by many to be a racial slur, and is used against the Roma, or Romani people with Romanian origins, originally of Indian decent. It has been used alongside centuries of oppression, discrimination, and violence against the Roma people.

We do not want our families to be caught off-guard as they are reading, and want to be sure that parents are armed with information to have a brief discussion with their child about why it is a problematic word choice before sending them to read independently, should they choose to do so.

Please consider reading the links below if you want or need more information.

- <https://now.org/blog/the-g-word-isnt-for-you-how-gypsy-erases-romani-women/>
- <https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2013/12/30/242429836/why-being-gyped-hurts-the-roma-more-than-it-hurts-you>
- <https://medium.com/ayzoh-magazine/gypsy-what-is-in-a-word-pride-or-prejudice-db09f6b63a32>

Please note that this message is intended to give parents a heads-up before reading, so they are not caught off guard, and are equipped to pivot or to discuss as they see fit. It is *not* intended to comment on or direct word choices or preferences for anyone in the Romani community. As with many words and terms, we understand that some members of the Romani community do not take issue with this particular term. However, we wanted our parents to be aware of it as they are reading the book.