

6 --- TEACHING DUCKLINGS HOW TO BEHAVE

One morning the old Water-rat put his head out of his hole. He had bright beady eyes and stiff grey whiskers, and his tail was like a long bit of black india-rubber. The little ducks were swimming about in the pond, looking just like a lot of yellow canaries, and their mother, who was pure white with real red legs, was trying to teach them how to stand on their heads in the water.

“You will never be in the best society unless you can stand on your heads,” she kept saying to them; and every now and then she showed them how it was done. But the little ducks paid no attention to her. They were so young that they did not know what an advantage it is to be in society at all.

“What disobedient children!” cried the old Water-rat, “they really deserve to be drowned.” “Nothing of the kind,” answered the Duck “every one must make a beginning, and parents cannot be too patient.”

O. Wilde

الإلقاظ و العبارات :

Water-rat	جرذ الماء
His hole	جحره
Bead	خرزة
Beady eyes	عينان صغيرتان تلمعان بريق الخرز
Pond	بركة
Pure white	ناصح البياض
She kept saying to them	ظلت تقول لهم
Every now and then	من حين الى آخر
They paid no attention to her	لم ينتبهوا اليها
Disobedient	عاص
Parents cannot be too patient	يجب ألا ينفد صبر الآباء