

richard adams the plague dogs

Richard Adams The Plague Dogs is a compelling novel that has captivated readers worldwide since its publication in 1977. Renowned author Richard Adams, best known for his classic "Watership Down," crafted a powerful story in *The Plague Dogs* that explores themes of survival, ethics, and the human-animal bond. This article dives deep into the novel's plot, themes, characters, and its significance in literature, providing an SEO-optimized overview for fans and new readers alike.

Overview of Richard Adams The Plague Dogs

Published in 1977, *The Plague Dogs* is a novel that tells the harrowing tale of two foxhounds, Snitter and Rowf, who escape from a government research facility. The story unfolds against the backdrop of post-war Britain, highlighting issues such as animal experimentation, government secrecy, and the struggle for freedom. Adams's vivid storytelling and detailed character development make this novel a standout in animal fiction and dystopian literature.

Plot Summary of The Plague Dogs

Introduction to the Main Characters

- Snitter: A foxhound with a troubled past, affected by experiments that have altered his mental state.
- Rowf: A large, loyal dog who was also subjected to laboratory testing, with a practical and protective nature.
- The Researchers: Representing government authority and scientific ethics, conducting experiments that push ethical boundaries.

The Escape and Journey

The story begins with Snitter and Rowf escaping from a secret research laboratory where they were subjected to experiments involving disease and trauma. As they flee into the countryside, they encounter various challenges, including the threat of human pursuit, harsh weather, and the struggle to find food and safety.

Throughout their journey, the dogs seek a safe haven while grappling with their own trauma and the moral implications of their situation. Their bond strengthens as they confront the dangers of the outside world, leading to moments of hope and despair.

The Themes of Survival and Ethics

The narrative explores profound themes:

- The ethics of animal experimentation and scientific responsibility.
- Survival instincts versus moral dilemmas.
- The impact of trauma on animals and their capacity for hope.

The novel culminates in a poignant ending that leaves readers contemplating the moral questions surrounding scientific experimentation on animals and the broader implications for society.

Major Themes in Richard Adams The Plague Dogs

Animal Rights and Ethical Concerns

The Plague Dogs raises questions about the morality of animal testing. Adams portrays the dogs' suffering with sensitivity, encouraging readers to reflect on how animals are treated in scientific research.

Freedom and Confinement

The dogs' escape symbolizes a fight for freedom, contrasting their natural instincts with the oppressive environment of the research lab. The narrative explores the desire for autonomy and the consequences of societal confinement.

Survival and Loyalty

Amidst adversity, Snitter and Rowf's loyalty to each other highlights themes of friendship and perseverance. Their resilience underscores the innate drive to survive against all odds.

Characters in The Plague Dogs

Snitter

A complex character affected by his traumatic past and experimental alterations. His intelligence and vulnerability make him a relatable protagonist.

Rowf

The protective, pragmatic dog who often takes on a leadership role. His loyalty to Snitter is central to the story's emotional depth.

The Researchers

Representing authority and scientific pursuit, they serve as antagonists whose actions prompt

questions about morality and responsibility.

Richard Adams' Writing Style and Impact

Distinctive Narrative Voice

Adams's prose is characterized by detailed descriptions and empathetic portrayals of animal characters. His storytelling combines realism with emotional depth, engaging readers and fostering empathy for the dogs.

Influence on Literature and Society

The Plague Dogs has contributed significantly to animal rights discourse. It has inspired discussions on ethical research practices and animal welfare, making it a relevant work even decades after its publication.

Reception and Legacy of The Plague Dogs

The novel received critical acclaim for its compelling narrative and moral depth. It has been praised for:

- Its vivid characterizations.
- Its powerful message about animal cruelty.
- Its ability to evoke emotional responses from readers.

The book has also been adapted into various media, including a 1982 animated film, which further amplified its message.

Why Read Richard Adams The Plague Dogs?

Readers interested in:

- Animal ethics and rights.
- Thought-provoking dystopian stories.
- Rich character development.
- Environmental and societal issues.

will find The Plague Dogs a compelling read. Its blend of adventure, moral inquiry, and emotional storytelling makes it a timeless piece in contemporary literature.

Conclusion

Richard Adams's *The Plague Dogs* stands as a profound exploration of animal suffering, moral responsibility, and the quest for freedom. Through the journey of Snitter and Rowf, Adams invites readers to reflect on the ethical implications of scientific experimentation and the innate desire for autonomy. Its enduring relevance, vivid storytelling, and emotional depth secure its place as a significant work in the canon of animal and dystopian fiction.

Whether you are an animal rights advocate, a lover of adventure stories, or someone interested in moral philosophy, *The Plague Dogs* offers a compelling narrative that challenges and inspires. Dive into Richard Adams's masterful storytelling and experience the powerful journey of these brave dogs fighting for their survival and dignity.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of Richard Adams' 'The Plague Dogs'?

The main theme revolves around animal rights, survival, and the ethics of scientific experimentation, highlighting the plight of the two dogs trying to escape from a laboratory.

Who are the main characters in 'The Plague Dogs'?

The main characters are two dogs, Snitter and Rowf, who escape from a research laboratory and seek freedom while facing various dangers in the outside world.

How does Richard Adams depict animals in 'The Plague Dogs'?

Adams portrays animals with depth and empathy, emphasizing their intelligence, emotions, and the injustices they face, encouraging readers to consider animal welfare.

What inspired Richard Adams to write 'The Plague Dogs'?

Adams was inspired by his concern about animal experimentation and the treatment of laboratory animals, aiming to shed light on these ethical issues through the novel.

Is 'The Plague Dogs' suitable for young readers?

While suitable for older children and teenagers due to its adventure and moral themes, it contains some intense scenes that may require parental guidance.

What is the significance of the title 'The Plague Dogs'?

The title refers to the dogs' potential to carry and spread a deadly plague, which is part of the scientific experiments they escape from, symbolizing themes of disease, danger, and misunderstanding.

How has 'The Plague Dogs' been received by critics and

readers?

The novel has been praised for its compelling storytelling, moral depth, and emotional impact, though some have noted its dark themes can be intense; it remains a thought-provoking work on animal rights.

Additional Resources

Richard Adams: The Plague Dogs — A Deep Dive into a Dark, Thought-Provoking Novel

Introduction: The Enduring Power of Richard Adams' "The Plague Dogs"

Published in 1977, *The Plague Dogs* stands as one of Richard Adams' most ambitious and morally complex works. Known primarily for his beloved classic *Watership Down*, Adams ventured into darker territory with this novel, exploring themes of animal intelligence, human cruelty, ethical dilemmas, and survival. As a writer celebrated for his vivid storytelling and insightful characterizations, Adams crafts a narrative that challenges readers to confront uncomfortable truths about society, nature, and the boundaries between species. This article aims to analyze *The Plague Dogs* in detail, examining its themes, characters, historical context, and lasting impact on literature and animal rights discourse.

Background on Richard Adams and the Creation of *The Plague Dogs*

Who Was Richard Adams?

Richard Adams (1920–2016) was a British novelist best known for his compelling anthropomorphic stories rooted in animal behavior and societal commentary. His debut novel, *Watership Down* (1972), achieved international acclaim for its rich narrative about a band of rabbits seeking a new home, blending adventure with allegorical reflections on human society. Adams' background as a civil servant and his interest in nature heavily influenced his storytelling style, which combines meticulous research with engaging storytelling.

Genesis of *The Plague Dogs*

Following the success of *Watership Down*, Adams sought to explore darker themes and more complex moral questions. Inspired partly by his own experiences and reports of animal experimentation, *The Plague Dogs* was conceived as a response to the ethical debates surrounding animal testing and the treatment of animals in laboratories. The novel draws from real-life incidents and scientific research, adding an element of realism to its fictional narrative.

Adams collaborated closely with a scientific advisor, ensuring that the portrayal of animals' intelligence, behavior, and physiology remained authentic. The novel was initially intended for a mature audience, aiming to provoke thought about human responsibilities toward animals and the consequences of scientific hubris.

Plot Summary and Narrative Structure

Overview of the Story

The Plague Dogs follows the harrowing journey of two dogs, Snitter and Rowf, who escape from a secret government laboratory in the Lake District of England. These dogs are subjects of experiments, and their escape is driven by a desire for freedom and survival. The narrative shifts between their perspectives and the humans involved in their story, creating a layered and complex narrative structure.

Key Plot Points

- The Escape: Snitter, a fox terrier with a traumatic past, and Rowf, a large, intelligent retriever, manage to escape from the laboratory where they have been subjected to experiments involving biological agents, notably the plague.
- The Wilderness Journey: The dogs navigate the rugged landscapes of the Lake District, facing starvation, exposure, and human hostility. Their journey is marked by moments of camaraderie, despair, and hope.
- Human Pursuit and Ethical Dilemmas: Authorities and scientists pursue the dogs, viewing them as dangerous vectors of disease. The novel explores the moral conflicts faced by those trying to recapture or euthanize the animals.
- Climactic Confrontation: The dogs seek refuge and understanding, ultimately confronting the moral consequences of their actions and their own survival instincts.

Narrative Style

Adams employs a third-person omniscient perspective that allows insight into both animal and human characters. The narrative is punctuated with detailed descriptions of the environment, animal cognition, and the emotional states of the protagonists. This style immerses readers in the dogs' experiences while providing critical commentary on human society.

Themes and Symbolism

Animal Intelligence and Sentience

One of the central themes of The Plague Dogs is the recognition of animals as sentient beings capable of complex thought, emotion, and moral judgment. Adams challenges the traditional view of animals as mere property or instinct-driven creatures, emphasizing their capacity for understanding, fear, and hope.

Key points:

- The dogs demonstrate problem-solving skills and adaptation, highlighting their intelligence.
- Snitter's traumatic memories and his attempts to communicate reflect emotional depth.
- The novel advocates for empathy and respect toward animals, urging readers to reconsider their treatment.

Ethical Dilemmas and Human Responsibility

Adams scrutinizes the ethics of scientific experimentation, especially in relation to animal testing. The novel portrays the laboratory as a symbol of human hubris, with scientists and officials prioritizing progress over animal welfare.

Important aspects:

- The depiction of the laboratory reflects real-world abuses and secrecy surrounding animal research.
- The moral conflict faced by characters like the scientist Dr. Boycott underscores the complexity of ethical decision-making.
- The story raises questions about the morality of using animals for scientific gain and the consequences of such actions.

Nature versus Industry

The rugged wilderness serves as both a sanctuary and a battleground for the dogs. Adams uses the contrasting landscapes to symbolize the tension between natural harmony and industrial exploitation.

Symbolism:

- The Lake District landscape embodies freedom and the primal instinct to survive.
- The laboratory and human encroachment represent destructive industrial progress.
- The dogs' struggle reflects broader environmental and societal conflicts.

Survival and Compassion

Throughout the novel, themes of survival are intertwined with acts of compassion. The dogs' quest for safety is juxtaposed with moments of kindness and cruelty from humans.

Analytical points:

- The animals' resilience demonstrates innate survival instincts.
- Instances of kindness from sympathetic characters highlight human capacity for compassion.
- Conversely, the pursuit and cruelty by authorities underline societal failures.

Character Analysis

Snitter

A former pet dog with a traumatic history, Snitter's psychological scars and his attempts to communicate are central to the narrative. His mental state fluctuates, revealing the impact of trauma and the importance of emotional healing.

Key traits:

- Intelligence and curiosity
- Deep emotional sensitivity
- Vulnerability due to past abuse

Rowf

A resilient and pragmatic retriever, Rowf serves as the protector and leader of the duo. His stoicism often masks deep emotional currents, and he embodies the instinct to survive.

Key traits:

- Loyalty and protectiveness
- Practicality and resourcefulness
- Capacity for empathy

Human Characters

- Dr. Boycott: A scientist torn between professional obligation and moral conscience. His character embodies the ethical dilemmas faced by scientists involved in animal experimentation.
- The Authorities: Represent societal institutions that prioritize containment and eradication over understanding or compassion.
- The Dog Catcher: A figure exemplifying societal cruelty, often acting without empathy or understanding.

Critical Reception and Impact

Literary Significance

The Plague Dogs has been praised for its compelling narrative, moral complexity, and vivid characterizations. Critics have lauded Adams for transcending simple animal stories to craft a nuanced critique of human society and scientific ethics.

Influence on Animal Rights Discourse

The novel has played a significant role in raising awareness about animal testing and laboratory ethics. Its portrayal of animals as sentient beings aligns with contemporary debates on animal rights, influencing activists and policymakers alike.

Adaptations and Cultural Legacy

While Adams himself expressed reservations about film adaptations, The Plague Dogs has inspired various stage productions and remains a seminal work in discussions of animal welfare and ethics.

Conclusion: The Lasting Relevance of The Plague Dogs

Richard Adams' The Plague Dogs remains a powerful, thought-provoking novel that challenges readers to reconsider their relationship with animals and the ethical responsibilities humans bear. By blending adventure with moral inquiry, Adams crafts a narrative that is as emotionally compelling as it is intellectually stimulating. Its enduring relevance lies in its ability to evoke empathy, question authority, and confront uncomfortable truths about societal and scientific practices. As environmental and animal rights issues continue to resonate globally, The Plague Dogs endures as a poignant reminder of the importance of compassion, understanding, and ethical responsibility in our dealings with the natural world.

In summary, Richard Adams' *The Plague Dogs* is much more than a story of escape; it is a mirror held up to human society, reflecting our failures and potential for compassion. Its rich themes, complex characters, and moral questions ensure that it remains a vital and influential work in both literary and ethical contexts.

[Richard Adams The Plague Dogs](#)

richard adams the plague dogs: The Plague Dogs Richard Adams, 2010-11-03 This modern-day classic is an unforgettable tale of fantasy and adventure, a powerful exploration of the limits of human cruelty and kindness. A "gripping ... compelling tale of emotional force and high suspense" (The Wall Street Journal). Rowf, a shaggy black mongrel, and Snitter, a black-and-white fox terrier, are among dozens of animals being cruelly held in a testing facility in North West England. When one of the handlers fails to close Rowf's cage properly, the two dogs make a daring escape into the English countryside, where they befriend a red fox who helps them survive in the wild. But as rumors circulate that the dogs may have been the test subjects for biological weapons and could be carrying a terrible plague, they soon find themselves targets of a great dog hunt. Local farmers, politicians, scientists, and even the military join in the search to track them down.

richard adams the plague dogs: The Plague Dogs Richard Adams, Robert Adams, 1983-12-12

richard adams the plague dogs: The plague dogs Richard Adams, 1974

richard adams the plague dogs: The Plague Dogs , 2005

richard adams the plague dogs: Heterotopia, Radical Imagination, and Shattering Orders Paula Arcari, 2024-12-13 This volume takes ending the oppression of other animals seriously and confronts the question 'What would happen to all the animals?' by showcasing real, promissory, and imagined counter-sites or heterotopia, where animals 'happen' in different ways, free of anthropocentric orders of value and purpose. Rejecting persistent understandings of the oppression of nonhuman animals, across the entire breadth of the Animal-Industrial Complex (A-IC), as either non-existent, unproblematic, and/or fundamentally unalterable - open to merely being reduced in scale or made less harmful - the collection offers readers a variety of pathways towards radically 'disordered' ways of thinking about and relating to other animals. Over 14 chapters, authors describe more liberatory relational reconfigurations playing out in the present and undertake conceptual, imaginative, and embodied explorations of liberatory futures. The chapters are united by a common commitment to heterotopic disturbance - to contesting and subverting the anthropo-capitalo-centric space in which we live. Each chapter approaches this subversion in its own way, using prefiguration, restorying, speculation, radical imagination, and combinations thereof, to disturb or shatter orders, explore the kinds of liberation and resistance their disturbance demonstrates, demands, or embodies, and ultimately illustrate exactly what would or could happen to all the animals. Heterotopia, Radical Imagination, and Shattering Orders will appeal to scholars, students, and individuals interested not only in challenging normalised binaries, hierarchies, and orders of value, both human and nonhuman, but in creating and realising liberatory alternatives. Scholar-activists, activists, professionals working in animal advocacy, and anyone undertaking activities aimed at radically changing how other animals are understood and used will also find inspiration, new insights, and information that enhance their current methods and approaches. Some readers may also find simply confirmation and comfort in the knowledge that so many others are working in solidarity with the 'disordered' belief that shattering the A-IC is possible.

richard adams the plague dogs: Animal Narratology Joela Jacobs, 2020-12-15 Animal Narratology interrogates what it means to narrate, to speak—speak for, on behalf of—and to voice,

or represent life beyond the human, which is in itself as different as insects, bears, and dogs are from each other, and yet more, as individual as a single mouse, horse, or puma. The varied contributions to this interdisciplinary Special Issue highlight assumptions about the human perception of, attitude toward, and responsibility for the animals that are read and written about, thus demonstrating that just as “the animal” does not exist, neither does “the human”. In their zoopoetic focus, the analyses are aware that animal narratology ultimately always contains an approximation of an animal perspective in human terms and terminology, yet they make clear that what matters is how the animal is approximated and that there is an effort to approach and encounter the non-human in the first place. Many of the analyses come to the conclusion that literary animals give readers the opportunity to expand their own points of view both on themselves and others by adopting another’s perspective to the degree that such an endeavor is possible. Ultimately, the contributions call for a recognition of the many spaces, moments, and modes in which human lives are entangled with those of animals—one of which is located within the creative bounds of storytelling.

richard adams the plague dogs: *Creative Compassion, Literature and Animal Welfare* Michael J. Gilmour, 2020-10-27 This book examines animal welfare themes in fiction, and considers how authors of the last two centuries undermine dominative attitudes toward the nonhuman. Appearing alongside the emerging humane movements of the nineteenth century and beyond is a kind of storytelling sympathetic to protectionist efforts well-described as a literature of protest. Compassion-inclined tales like the *Dolittle* adventures by Hugh Lofting educate readers on a wide range of ethical questions, empathize with the vulnerable, and envision peaceful coexistence with other species. Memorable characters like *Black Beauty* and *Beautiful Joe*, *Ivan the gorilla* and *Louis the trumpeter swan*, *Hazel and Cheeta*, *Mr. Bultitude* and *Doctor Rat* do not merely amuse. They are voices from the margins who speak with moral urgency to those with ears to hear. This broad survey of ethical themes in animal fiction highlights the unique contributions creative writers make toward animal welfare efforts.

richard adams the plague dogs: *Queering the Non/Human* Myra J. Hird, 2016-05-23 What might it mean to queer the Human? By extension, how is the Human employed within queer theory? These questions invite a reconsideration of the way we think about queer theory, the category of the Human and the act of queering itself. This interdisciplinary volume of essays gathers together essays by international pioneering scholars in queer theory, critical theory, cultural studies and science studies who have written on topics as diverse as Christ, the Antichrist, dogs, starfish, werewolves, vampires, murderous dolls, cartoons, corpses, bacteria, nanoengineering, biomesis, the incest taboo, the death drive and the 'queer' in queer theory. Contributors include Robert Azzarello, Karen Barad, Phillip A. Bernhardt-House, Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, Claire Colebrook, Noreen Giffney, Judith Halberstam, Donna J. Haraway, Eva Hayward, Myra J. Hird, Karalyn Kendall, Vicki Kirby, Alice Kuzniar, Patricia MacCormack, Robert Mills, Luciana Parisi and Erin Runions.

richard adams the plague dogs: *Wes Anderson* Ian Nathan, 2020-11-03 The definitive unofficial reference for fans of the beloved film director: “Like strolling through the distinctly colored halls of Anderson’s imagination.” —*Highbrow Magazine* Loaded with rich imagery and detailed analysis of his incredible films—among them *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, *Rushmore*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *Moonrise Kingdom*, and *The French Dispatch*—this is an intelligent and thoughtful examination of the work of one of contemporary film’s greatest visionaries, charting the themes, visuals, and narratives that have come to define Wes Anderson’s work and contributed to his films an idiosyncratic character that’s adored by his loyal fans. From his regular cast members such as Bill Murray and Owen Wilson to his instantly recognizable aesthetic, recurring motifs, and scriptwriting processes, this unauthorized in-depth collection reveals how Wes Anderson became one of modern cinema’s most esteemed and influential directors.

richard adams the plague dogs: *Figuring Animals* M. Pollock, C. Rainwater, 2016-10-03 This is a collection of fifteen essays which expose weaknesses in western epistemological frames of reference that for centuries have limited our views, and, thus, our experiences of animal being,

including our own. The volume contributes to current discussions of new ways of seeing the other inhabitants of this world and more effective ways of sharing the world with them. The contributors draw on and complement the growing field of ecocriticism, but because the contributors draw on an array of disciplinary and cultural perspectives, it will appeal to a wide audience, ranging from literary scholars, philosophers, art historians, anthropologists, and cultural historians (including graduate and undergraduate students in all these disciplines), to laypersons interested in nature writing and environmental issues.

richard adams the plague dogs: The Lives of Animals in Words and Images Željko Uvanović, Suzana Marjanić, 2025-06-26 This Animal Studies collection unravels the complex ways we represent non-humans across cultures and media, but primarily focusing on their image in literature and film. From Noah's Ark to the haunting imagery in Hitchcock's *The Birds*, this book probes the ethical and symbolic roles creatures play in our lives. It examines everything from the portrayal of insects in ancient texts to the depiction of cats as villains in Disney films. Each chapter challenges our perceptions, inviting readers to reflect on the cultural significance of animals in today's world. Examine your perspectives on anthropocentrism and anthropomorphism in documentary filmmaking, confront the legal and ethical dilemmas of animals in entertainment, and ponder the harsh realities of animals exploited for human gain. From ancient religious scriptures to contemporary film adaptations, this meticulously curated collection of essays delves into the symbolic, ethical, and cultural significance of non-human creatures in our (still speciesist) global society.

richard adams the plague dogs: Bestsellers: Popular Fiction Since 1900 Clive Bloom, 2022-01-03 This book charts the publishing industry and bestselling fiction from 1900, featuring a comprehensive list of all bestselling fiction titles in the UK. This third edition includes a new introduction which features additional information on current trends in reading including the rise of Black, Asian and LGBTQIA+ publishing; the continuing importance of certain genres and up to date trends in publishing, bookselling, library borrowing and literacy. There are sections on writing for children, on the importance of audiobooks and book clubs, self-published bestsellers as well as many new entries to the present day including bestselling authors such as David Walliams, Peter James, George R R Martin and far less well known authors whose books sell in their thousands. This is the essential guide to best-selling books, authors, genres, publishing and bookselling since 1900, providing a unique insight into more than a century of entertainment, and opening a window into the reading habits and social life of the British from the death of Queen Victoria to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

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richard adams the plague dogs: Bestsellers: Popular Fiction since 1900 C. Bloom, 2002-07-09 This guide and reference work of all of the bestselling books, authors and genres since the beginning of the 20th century, provides an insight into over 100 years of publishing and reading as well as taking us on a journey into the heart of the British imagination.

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richard adams the plague dogs: *Gothic Animals* Ruth Heholt, Melissa Edmundson, 2019-12-10 This book begins with the assumption that the presence of non-human creatures causes an always-already uncanny rift in human assumptions about reality. Exploring the dark side of animal nature and the 'otherness' of animals as viewed by humans, and employing cutting-edge theory on non-human animals, eco-criticism, literary and cultural theory, this book takes the Gothic genre into new territory. After the dissemination of Darwin's theories of evolution, nineteenth-century fiction quickly picked up on the idea of the 'animal within'. Here, the fear explored was of an unruly, defiant, degenerate and entirely amoral animality lying (mostly) dormant within all of us. However, non-humans and humans have other sorts of encounters, too, and even before Darwin, humans have often had an uneasy relationship with animals, which, as Donna Haraway puts it, have a way of 'looking back' at us. In this book, the focus is not on the 'animal within' but rather on the animal 'with-out': other and entirely incomprehensible.

richard adams the plague dogs: *The History of Opposition to Blood Sports in Twentieth Century England* Michael Tichelar, 2016-12 An inter-disciplinary social history, this book examines the major pressures and influences that brought about the growth of opposition to hunting in twentieth century England. Based on a range of cultural, social, literary and political sources drawn from history, sociology, geography, psychology and anthropology, *Opposition to Blood Sports in Twentieth Century England* accounts for the change in our relationship with non-human animals. Shedding light on the manner in which this resulted in the growth in opposition to hunting and other blood sports, it will appeal to those in social sciences and historians with interests in human-animal relations.

richard adams the plague dogs: *Of Mice, Models, and Men* Andrew N. Rowan, 1984-06-30 Too much emotion and insufficient fact. This paradox has long characterized the controversy surrounding animal research. *Of Mice, Models, and Men* is the first exhaustive treatment of all areas—empirical and conceptual—relevant to the use of animals in research. It is also the first study to combine regard for the welfare of laboratory animals with a knowledgeable acceptance of the continuing need for research involving animals. The book has another rare quality. It is virtually devoid of any of the emotional and exaggerated attacks that have characterized many of the other publications in this area. Instead, it presents, in a manner accessible to both sides, all the relevant historical, social, and scientific information required to form an opinion on the subject. The book thus achieves a most difficult goal—that of bridging the gap between researchers using animals and animal welfare advocates, while pointing out the need for a more active program to promote laboratory animal welfare.

richard adams the plague dogs: *Where the Wild Books Are* Jim Dwyer, 2010-04-01 As interest in environmental issues grows, many writers of fiction have embraced themes that explore the connections between humans and the natural world. Ecologically themed fiction ranges from profound philosophical meditations to action-packed entertainments. *Where the Wild Books Are* offers an overview of nearly 2,000 works of nature-oriented fiction. The author includes a discussion

of the precursors and history of the genre, and of its expansion since the 1970s. He also considers its forms and themes, as well as the subgenres into which it has evolved, such as speculative fiction, ecodefense, animal stories, mysteries, ecofeminist novels, cautionary tales, and others. A brief summary and critical commentary of each title is included. Dwyer's scope is broad and covers fiction by Native American writers as well as ecofiction from writers around the world. Far more than a mere listing of books, *Where the Wild Books Are* is a lively introduction to a vast universe of engaging, provocative writing. It can be used to develop book collections or curricula. It also serves as an introduction to one of the most fertile areas of contemporary fiction, presenting books that will offer enjoyable reading and new insights into the vexing environmental questions of our time.

richard adams the plague dogs: Politics and the British Novel in the 1970s J. Russell Perkin, 2021-06-15 The 1970s in Britain saw a series of industrial disputes, a referendum on membership in the European Economic Community, conflict about issues of immigration and citizenship, and emergent environmental and feminist movements. It was also a decade of innovation in the novel, and novelists often addressed the state of the nation directly in their works. In *Politics and the British Novel in the 1970s* Russell Perkin looks at social novels by John Fowles and Margaret Drabble, the Cold War thrillers of John le Carré, Richard Adams's best-selling fable *Watership Down*, the popular campus novels of Malcolm Bradbury and David Lodge, Doris Lessing's dystopian visions, and V.S. Naipaul's explorations of post-colonial displacement. Many of these highly regarded works sold in large numbers and have enjoyed enduring success – a testament to the power of the political novel to explain a nation to itself. Perkin explores the connections between the novel and politics, situating the works it discusses in the rich context of the history and culture of the decade, from party politics to popular television shows. *Politics and the British Novel in the 1970s* elucidates a period of literary history now fifty years in the past and offers a balanced perspective on the age, revealing that these works not only represented the politics of the time but played a meaningful role in them.

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