

Five Warrens

All of the warrens have the same religion which is the Lapine religion. Lord Firth, the Sun God, created the Earth and all the stars from his droppings. El-ahrairah was the prince of rabbits. The stories of El-ahrairah teach rabbits why certain things in the world are the way they are, such as why rabbits have strong hind legs and cottony tails.

Watership Down

Religion -

- Worship animal god , Frith
- Folk hero El-ahrairah
- Stories teach to use cunning and tricks to get what they want
- Explain where they get their tails and long legs
- The stories are told to give them comfort and courage

Family –

- Does are needed for the continued existence of the warren
- All bucks get a doe and start a family
- Arguments for does are settled by fights
- The does dig their own burrow in the warren – bucks can learn to do this
- The bucks bring food to the doe
- The burrows are connected to the entire warren

Government –

- Democracy
- Freestanding; everyone is free to go about except on decisions that affect the entire warren
- The Chief Rabbit has authority; makes decision
- Free enterprise
- Anyone can go about freely
- They help one another; they work together

Efrafa

Religion -

- Same

Family -

- Families are based on what mark they are in . A mark is a division of rabbits
- Belong to a group that all have the same scars on different parts of their body

Government -

- Dictatorship
- Strict rules; they rely on the council police for instructions and information
- Forced ignorance unless part of the privileged class
- In return for safety, they have no freedom; constant fear
- Provide for them (great care is taken to keep the warren hidden from men)
- Chief Rabbit has full authority
- Owsla administers discipline (brutal punishment to any rabbit that tries to escape or steps out of line)
- The strong or large rabbits are trained by the Owsla
- Owsla rabbits can mate with any doe they wish
- Because of overpopulation, does have quit bearing young

Cowslip Warren

Religion –

- Believes that the stories about El-ahrairah and Frith are just fairy tales.

Family –

- no importance is placed on the family. The does are just there for the sake of breeding
- no sadness seems to be present for those who die
- sense of denial and dehumanization
- everyone is focused on self survival
- they seem very sad (eulogy); defeatist attitude; accepting of death

Government

- Warren built near humans; unnatural surroundings
- Humans harvest the rabbits (but the rabbits seem unaware of this)
- Abundant food supply (surrounded by snares)
- Everything seems free (but comes with a deadly price)
- No one is Chief Rabbit; no organized structure of government
- Never taught survival skills (how to secure food and watch for enemies)
- Ignorant of the outside world
- Victimized

Sandleford Warren

Religion

- Lapine rabbit religion

Family

- Close family structure

- Does are vital for breeding
- Everyone knew if a member of the warren was missing
- The warren is overcrowded

Government

- Monarchy – Threarah is the chief rabbit – tyrannical nature
- Dictatorial ruling body style of government
- The Owsla was their group of government officials (ruling class)
 - They make the decisions
 - Guard the warren
 - Mete out punishment to those who break the rules

Everything they did was for the good of the warren

The rabbits do not have the freedom to come and go as they please

Hutch Rabbits

No religion, no government, no family structure.

- They have been fed and cared for by humans all of their lives and do not know how to act in the wild.
- Their life is monotonous
- They are not capable of making decisions and acting on them
- Example of a dominated society (slavery, imprisonment)