Create a Green Invention

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

Wildtop Wood can grow extraordinary things when the Treetoppers need help. Wildtop Wood has already created the Green Galleon, bark helmets and living tree armour. Now it is your turn to imagine something new.

The Challenge

Design something the wood could grow to help the Treetoppers. It must solve a real problem, use natural materials and behave in a magical way that still feels believable in Wildtop Wood.

1. Start with the problem

What problem will your invention solve?	Name your invention
_____	_____
_____	_____
	_____

2. Draw the blueprint

Draw and label your invention. Show which natural materials it uses and any parts that grow, move, bend, protect or transform.



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Create a Green Invention

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

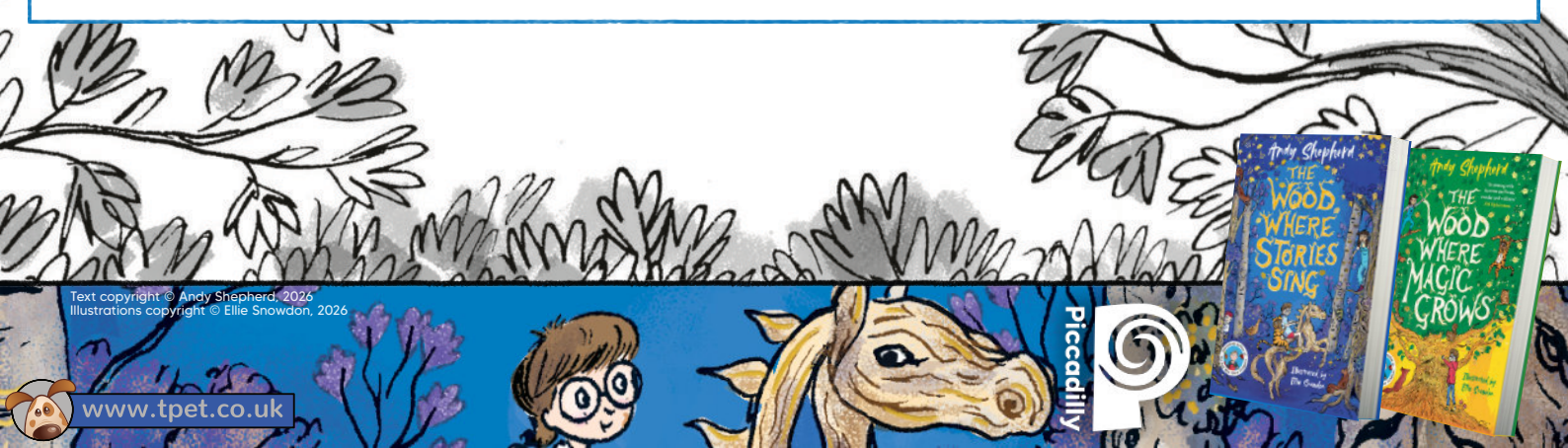
3. Make the magic work

Natural materials	How it works
What is it grown from? Think about bark, branches, roots, leaves, vines, moss, flowers, seeds or other materials from the wood.	What does it do when the Treetoppers need it? Describe how it grows, moves or changes.
The magic rule	**How the wood knows**
What can it do - and what can it NOT do? Give your invention a limit so the magic feels believable.	What action, feeling, story or situation tells the wood that this invention is needed?

4. Treetopper field test

Imagine Iggy, Cal, Mae and Ven use your invention for the first time. What happens?

Explain how it helps, what surprises them and whether anything goes wrong.



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Create Your Own Woodland Warrior

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

Pintle Pine, Mossie and Twigly are tiny woodland warriors made from gifts from the wood. Design a new warrior to join them and help the Treetoppers.

The Challenge

Your warrior must be made entirely from things that could naturally be found in a wood. Think about pine cones, sticks, moss, bark, leaves, seeds, acorns, feathers and other woodland materials. Give your character a special skill that would be useful to the Treetoppers.



Draw and label your Woodland Warrior

Use arrows and labels to show what each part is made from.



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Create Your Own Woodland Warrior

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

Name

What is your woodland warrior called?

Natural materials

What is each part made from?

Special skill

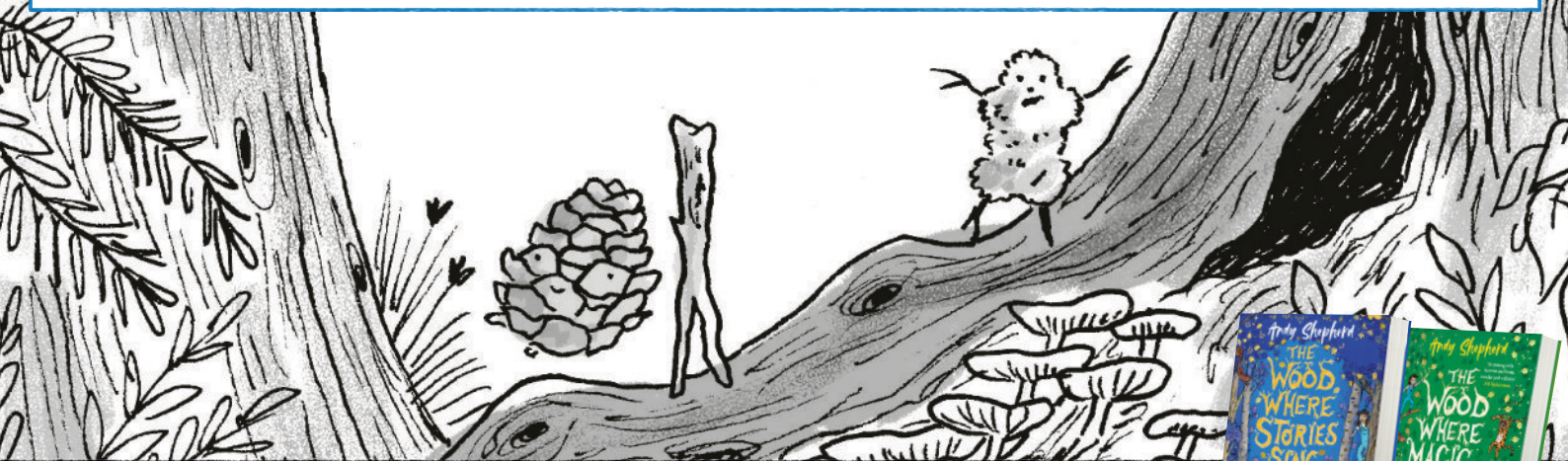
What can your warrior do?

Helping the Treetoppers

How would your warrior help Iggy, Cal, Mae and Ven?

Woodland Warrior check:

- ☐ made from natural materials
- ☐ has a useful skill
- ☐ fits the magic of Wildtop Wood



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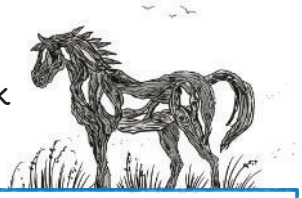
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Crest's Message

Reading Non-Verbal Communication

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

Crest cannot speak, but she repeatedly tries to communicate through her actions. Follow the clues and explain what you think she is trying to tell Iggy and the other Treetoppers.



1. Watching

Crest is often found near the dunes, staring out towards the sea.

What might Crest be trying to communicate?

What does Iggy understand at this point?

2. Warning

On the beach, Crest paws the ground, tosses her head and stops the children getting too close to the crumbling cliff.

What might Crest be warning the children about?

What does Iggy understand now?

3. Guiding

Crest repeatedly tries to guide Iggy. On the beach, she nudges him away from the cliff. Later, she blocks his path and tries to lead him further through the trees.

What do Crest's actions suggest?

Why does Iggy still not fully understand her?



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Crest's Message

Reading Non-Verbal Communication

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

4. Urgency

During the storm, Crest comes to the cottage frightened and urgently leads the Treetoppers towards Wildtop Wood.

How has Crest's message changed?

What does Iggy realise is happening?

5. Understanding

At the climax, Iggy finally understands why Crest has been watching the sea. He climbs onto her back and rides with her into the water.

How do all of Crest's earlier actions make sense now?

What has changed in the way Iggy responds to Crest?



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Discussion Questions
Extract 1

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

Extract taken from Chapter 12 - That's the Spirit of
The Wood Where Stories Sing by Andy Shepherd.

'The marks,' I gasped. 'They're planning to cut down the trees.'

Sylvie looked down at the paper sadly.

'I know, Iggy, I've just been telling Melodie about it. I went to speak to Councillor Thornwood. I thought she'd probably know why the trees were being marked, and I was right.'

Cal looked furious at the mention of Thornwood.

'But why would she want to cut them down?' he demanded.

'Let's all go inside,' Melodie suggested. 'I'll put the kettle on while you fill everyone in.'

We let ourselves be shepherded into the lorry where we huddled together on the cushioned bench while Sylvie told us about the proposed plan to put new overhead power cables through the wood.

'Of course Councillor Thornwood is delighted that the village will be better connected,' Sylvie said. 'She says it's about time communications were improved for local people. But if it goes ahead then a great swathe of trees will need to be felled to allow the cables to be strung through.'

'But that's terrible,' Mae exclaimed.

'What about Turrety?' Cal whimpered.

'And all those other poor trees!' I cried. 'It'll split the wood right down the middle. Doesn't Councillor Thornwood care?'

'Why can't the cables just go around the wood?' Mae asked, confused.

'It'll cost more money I expect,' Sylvie said. 'It'll be what's fastest and easiest. A few trees won't matter to them.'

'They can't do it,' Cal declared and then added weakly, 'Can they?'

'I'm afraid they can,' Sylvie said.

'And they will,' Melodie replied sadly. 'We've seen it in other places we've visited. So much of our woodland is being lost in one way or another.'



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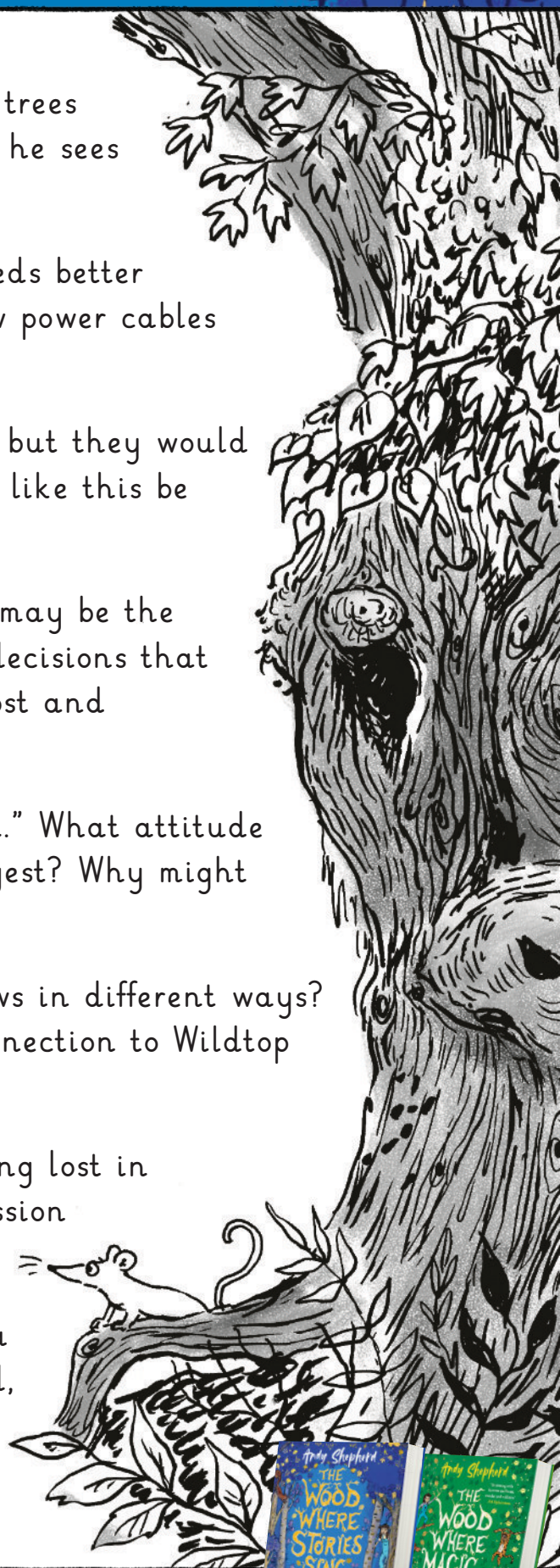


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Discussion Questions
Extract 1

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

- Why do you think Cal immediately asks why Councillor Thornwood would want to cut the trees down? What does this suggest about the way he sees her at this point in the story?
- Councillor Thornwood believes the village needs better communications. What benefits might the new power cables bring to local people?
- The new power cables could help the village, but they would damage Wildtop Wood. How should a decision like this be made?
- Sylvie suggests that going through the wood may be the fastest, easiest and cheapest option. Should decisions that affect the environment be based mainly on cost and convenience? Why or why not?
- Sylvie says, "A few trees won't matter to them." What attitude towards the woodland does this wording suggest? Why might the Treetoppers see the trees very differently?
- How do Iggy, Cal and Mae respond to the news in different ways? What do their reactions show about their connection to Wildtop Wood?
- Melodie says that she has seen woodland being lost in other places. How does this change the discussion from being only about Wildtop Wood?
- Who do you think should have a say before a development like this goes ahead: the council, the power company, local residents, environmental experts or someone else? Explain your reasoning.





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Discussion Questions
Extract 2

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

Extract taken from Chapter 22 - Is It a Seal? of
The Wood Where Stories Sing by Andy Shepherd.

'Let's go and wash off in the sea,' Mae said.

And we ran down the beach towards the lapping waves. 'Is it me or has the beach got bigger?' Cal panted.

I laughed. 'It's low tide. Last time we came down the sea was way up.'

'It's called a neap tide,' Ven said. 'But it's the lowest I've seen it and it's still going out.'

'Look at the white horses,' Mae said.

'Horses?' Cal asked.

'Where the waves are foaming and curling over, my mum always calls them white horses,' said Mae.

At last we reached the water and splashed in up to our knees.

'It's freezing,' Mae said, dashing out again.

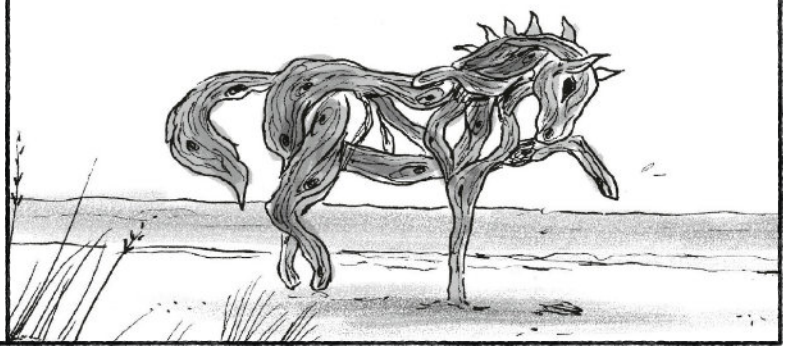
'It's not that bad.' Ven laughed. 'You should feel it in December! My mum does a Boxing Day swim. Now *that's* cold.'

'It looks like we might be about to get some more rain,' I said, pointing to the dark clouds brooding over the sea in the distance.

And then Cal piped up. 'It's Crest!'

I turned and saw the driftwood horse much further up the beach, which was deserted. She was standing in the shadow of the cliff that had fallen, trotting up and down as if she was patrolling the beach. Every so often she stopped and fixed her gaze on the sea.

Cal called out her name into the wind. I could see Crest's ears twitch as his voice reached her and she galloped towards us, before abruptly stopping. She stood and pawed the ground, sending sand scattering, and tossing her head wildly. When none of us moved she reared up before galloping back the way she'd come.





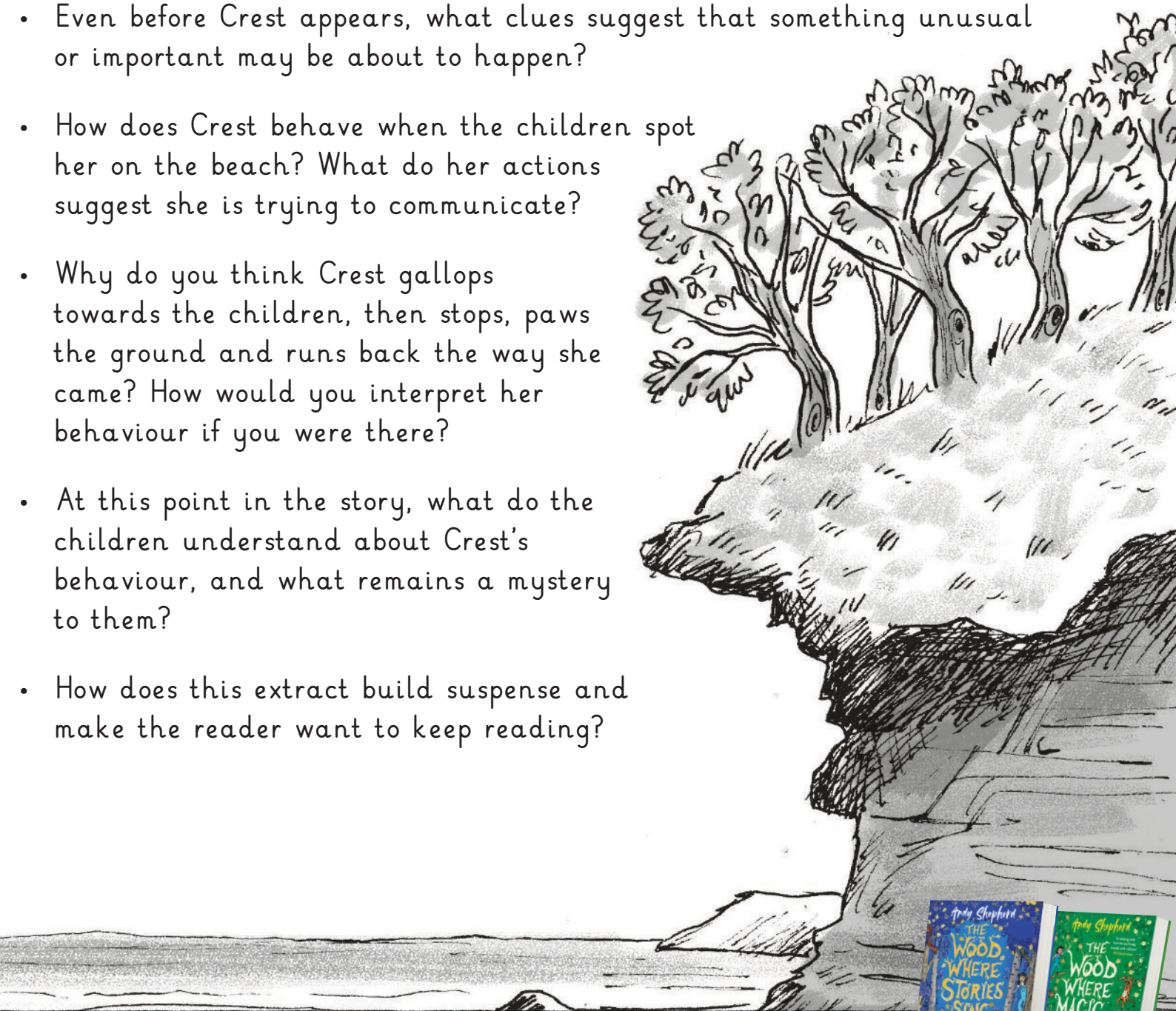
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Discussion Questions
Extract 2

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

- Why do you think the author draws attention to the unusually low tide before Crest appears? What effect does this have on the reader?
- Ven explains that it is a neap tide and that the sea is still going out. Why might this detail be important?
- Mae describes the foaming waves as "white horses". What picture does this create in your mind? Why might the author include this image?
- Even before Crest appears, what clues suggest that something unusual or important may be about to happen?
- How does Crest behave when the children spot her on the beach? What do her actions suggest she is trying to communicate?
- Why do you think Crest gallops towards the children, then stops, paws the ground and runs back the way she came? How would you interpret her behaviour if you were there?
- At this point in the story, what do the children understand about Crest's behaviour, and what remains a mystery to them?
- How does this extract build suspense and make the reader want to keep reading?



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Discussion Questions
Extract 3

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

Extract taken from Chapter 36 - The Roar of Many of
The Wood Where Stories Sing by Andy Shepherd.

36
The Roar of Many

With Crest. That's how.

Finally I understood what she had been trying to tell us. And why we had found her staring out at the sea so often.

Crest stood at my side and bent one knee. This time I couldn't hesitate. Being up on a horse terrified me, but it was nothing compared to the thought of losing Wildtop Wood. Tucked inside my hoodie I felt the reassuring buzz of Buzby next to my heart. I could do this, I told myself. Even though the fear would be riding with me. I scrambled up onto Crest and she was away

in a second. Galloping over the sand straight towards the sea.

She burst into the water, spray exploding around us, and I gasped at the coldness as it hit my legs.

She veered to the right and began trampling through the waves and then turned and galloped back again. Back and forth. Back and forth. While the white horses kicked and danced around her, and the wind whinnied in reply.

I looked back towards the wood and saw three tiny shapes above the tree line, waving madly in the wind like tiny flags. The Treetoppers cheering me on.

I heard myself roar: 'We are one. We are many.'

And from the foamy water the ancient trees began to rise. A forest of submerged goliaths.

The air filled with the sounds of their waking. Mighty branches breaching the waves. Huge trunks burgeoning in the sea's swell.

On every side they rose. Until I was surrounded. Until there was a forest as vast as an ocean.



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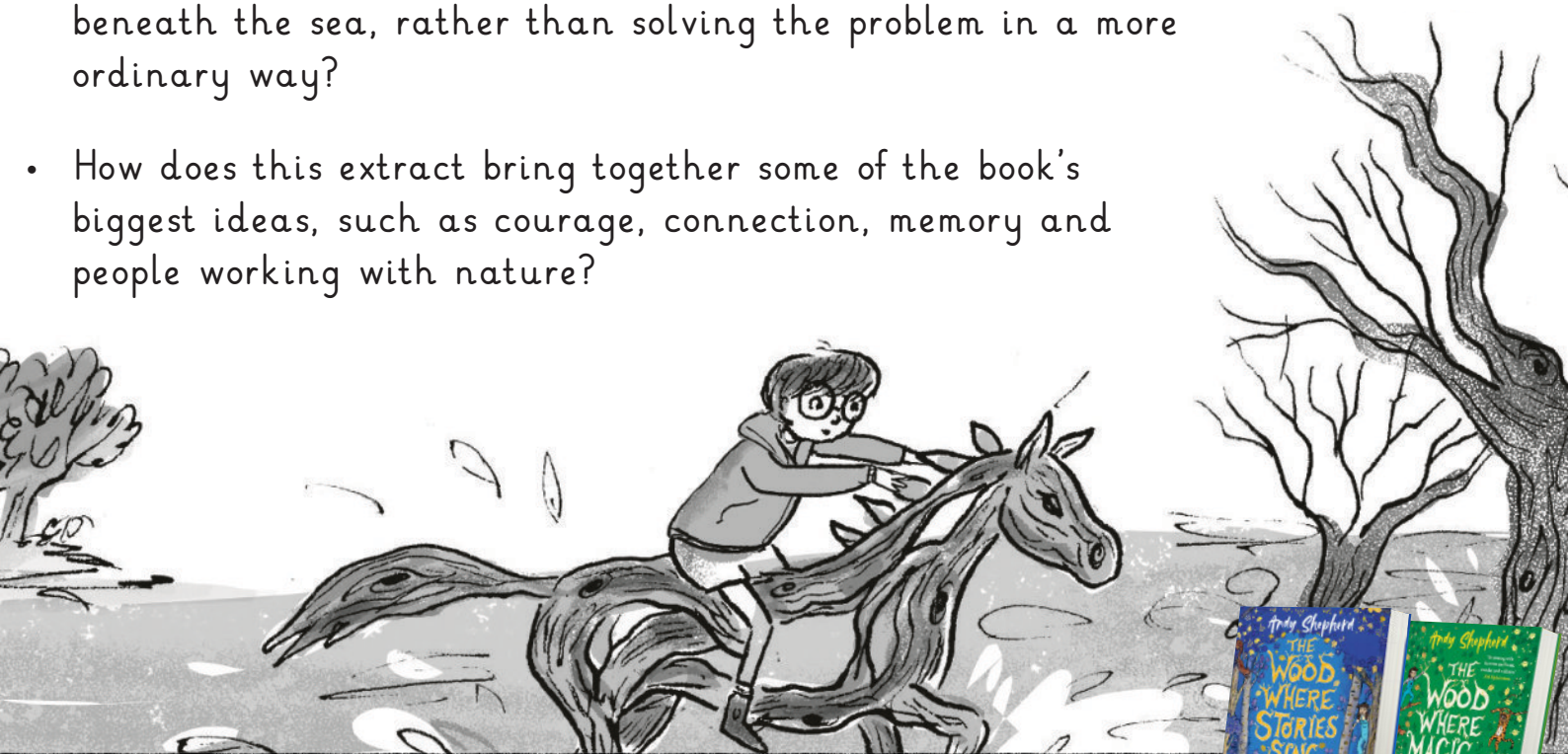


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Discussion Questions
Extract 3

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

- At the start of this extract, Iggy says that being on a horse terrifies him. Why is this the moment when he is finally able to overcome that fear?
- What does the line "Even though the fear would be riding with me" suggest about the nature of courage?
- Why is it important that Iggy only now fully understands what Crest has been trying to tell him? How does this bring earlier parts of the story together?
- The author describes Crest moving "back and forth" through the waves while the "white horses" kick and dance around her. What effect do these repeated images of horses have?
- What does "We are one. We are many." mean in this extract? Who or what could the word "we" refer to?
- How does the author make the rising ancient forest seem powerful and awe-inspiring? Which words or phrases stand out to you most, and why?
- Why do you think the author chooses to have the ancient trees rise from beneath the sea, rather than solving the problem in a more ordinary way?
- How does this extract bring together some of the book's biggest ideas, such as courage, connection, memory and people working with nature?



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Character Study
Iggy

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

While reading ***The Wood Where Stories Sing*** by Andy Shepherd, gather information about the main character, Iggy. You should add to each category as the story develops and you learn more about him.



What do you know about Iggy at the start of the story?

How do Iggy's worries and fears affect the choices he makes?

What does Iggy's relationship with Cal reveal about Iggy's character?

How does Iggy change as the story progresses?



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The Ancient Forest Awakens

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

At the climax of ***The Wood Where Stories Sing***, Iggy rides Crest into the sea and the ancient forest beneath the waves begins to rise. Imagine you are watching this extraordinary moment from the shore. Write a vivid narrative description that captures the danger, scale and magic of the scene.



Build the scene

Before the forest rises	Create tension. Describe the stormy sea, the wind and the sense that something enormous is about to happen.
The first signs	Show the reader the first branches or trunks breaking through the water. What can be heard, seen and felt?
The forest awakens	Make the ancient trees feel vast and powerful as more of them rise from beneath the waves.
The surge arrives	Describe the force of the water and the moment the ancient trees stand together against it.
Afterwards	Show how the mood changes when the danger begins to pass.

Writing focus

- Use precise verbs to show the movement of the sea, trees and wind.
- Use sensory details to help the reader hear and feel the scene.
- Vary sentence lengths to build tension and then release it.
- Choose comparisons carefully to make the ancient forest seem huge without copying the book.
- Keep the events consistent with what happens in the story, while using your own language.



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The Ancient Forest Awakens

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The Old Song

The Old Song becomes more meaningful as the story develops. Its ideas about people, trees, stories and working together are reflected in important events across the book. Use the moments below to show how the meaning of the song grows.

Moment from the story	Which idea from the Old Song does it connect to?	What does this moment show?
The Treetoppers work together to protect Wildtop Wood.		
The school spends a Forest School day in the wood and helps its magic grow.		
The trees link and strengthen one another before the storm.		
The ancient forest rises from beneath the sea and stands together against the surge.		
The villagers join the campaign to save Wildtop Wood.		
At the final performance, people and trees share the same story.		

How does the meaning of the Old Song become clearer as the story develops?



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The Wood Remembers

In Wildtop Wood, the trees communicate with one another, respond to the Treetoppers and seem connected to the stories and history of the wood. Imagine that one of the trees could tell the story of an important event it witnessed. Retell the event from the tree's point of view.

Choose an event

- the children arriving in Wildtop Wood
- the trees learning about the planned power cables
- the Forest School day
- the storm surge reaching the wood
- the ancient forest rising from beneath the sea

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The Wood Remembers

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Ven – First Impressions and Reality

While reading ***The Wood Where Stories Sing*** **by Andy Shepherd**, track how Iggy's opinion of Ven changes. Think carefully about what Iggy assumes, what Ven actually says and does, and how one misunderstanding shapes his first impression of her. Use evidence from the story to support your ideas.



What does Iggy first think about Ven? What has led him to this impression?

What does Ven actually say and do that challenges Iggy's first impression of her?

Why is the same / shame misunderstanding important? How does it affect the way Iggy thinks about and treats Ven?

How does Iggy's opinion of Ven change after he understands the truth? What does this part of the story suggest about first impressions and making assumptions about other people?



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Wordsearch

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

Cross out each word as you find it.

F	C	O	G	N	P	P	I	N	T	L	E	P	I	N	E
K	U	L	Y	G	E	T	U	R	R	E	T	Y	O	M	T
E	K	E	I	W	O	E	A	A	H	H	P	S	K	U	U
S	A	A	N	C	I	E	N	T	F	O	R	E	S	T	A
T	E	N	O	E	L	L	A	G	N	E	E	R	G	C	B
O	G	Y	Q	T	R	O	D	O	M	E	D	L	A	E	D
R	C	G	E	S	S	T	N	T	S	Z	S	L	E	F	P
M	W	O	Y	E	R	B	J	A	O	H	V	E	N	O	M
S	Z	Q	W	O	S	U	P	O	P	P	P	I	G	G	Y
U	E	E	T	U	N	L	F	Z	O	R	W	C	Q	B	O
R	T	F	U	F	I	E	I	R	C	P	R	O	S	O	O
G	F	L	A	N	S	V	O	R	A	E	J	Z	O	A	E
E	A	S	G	E	L	B	G	E	S	N	I	O	E	D	A
C	T	S	B	T	R	E	E	T	O	P	P	E	R	S	M
I	D	H	W	A	I	M	U	L	A	X	B	A	N	T	A

ANCIENT FOREST
CAL
CREST
EALDEMODOR
GREEN GALLEON
IGGY
MAE
PINTLE PINE
SAPLINGS
STORM SURGE
TREETOPPERS
TURRETY
VEN
WILDTOP WOOD



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Wordsearch Answers

THE WOOD WHERE STORIES SING

Cross out each word as you find it.

F	C	O	G	N	P	P	I	N	T	L	E	P	I	N	E
K	U	L	Y	G	E	T	U	R	R	E	T	Y	O	M	T
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O	G	Y	Q	T	R	O	D	O	M	E	D	L	A	E	D
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M	W	O	Y	E	R	B	J	A	O	H	V	E	N	O	M
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C	T	S	B	T	R	E	E	T	O	P	P	E	R	S	M
I	D	H	W	A	I	M	U	L	A	X	B	A	N	T	A

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