



melissaharrison.co.uk

 [@m_z_harrison](https://twitter.com/m_z_harrison)

BY ASH, OAK AND THORN

Melissa Harrison

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

CREATED BY: Christine Wall

teachingyearsix.wordpress.com



chickenhousebooks.com

Chapter

Comprehension Questions

Writing Opportunities

Cross Curricular Opportunities

Front cover, blurb and map

- Based on the cover, what do you think the book will be about?
- Who do you think the main characters will be?
- Where do you think it will be set?
- What do you think the title means? Does it give you any ideas as to what the book will be about?
- Does the blurb confirm your thoughts, or has it changed your mind? Why?
- Look at the map. Where do you think the story will start? Where will it finish? How will they get there?
- Why do you think the author decided to include a map?

Complete an OWI grid:

Observe – what can you see? Can you describe it fully? Remember to look at the foreground and background of the cover.

Wonder – what questions do you have, based on the front cover? Children could start their sentences with 'I wonder if ...'

Infer – start your sentences with 'I think ...' or 'Maybe ...' Can you explain why you think this?

SCIENCE • Identify and classify a range of trees found in Britain, using classification keys. Label parts of a tree using scientific vocabulary.

OUTDOOR LEARNING • Complete an environment walk in the school grounds or local area. Can you identify and classify the different types of tree?

1

- Before reading the chapter:
- Read the summary of 'A Spring Morning'. What do you think the peculiar thing will be?
 - Who do you think Moss, Burnet and Cumulus are? What do you think the relationship between them is?
- After reading the chapter:
- How old do you think Maya and Ben are? Why do you think this?
 - For how long have the Hidden Folk lived in the ash tree?
 - Name all three Hidden Folk. Why do you think the author chose these names? (You may need to use dictionaries or research the meaning of their names.)

Write a description of your own garden or a part of the school grounds/local area, taking inspiration from the author's description in the book.

ART • Based on the description in the book, draw or paint a picture of Moss, Burnet and Cumulus.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY/ OUTDOOR LEARNING • Based on the description in the book, draw or paint a picture of Moss, Burnet and Cumulus.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose two adjectives to describe the Hidden Folk's home. Why did you choose these adjectives? What was the peculiar thing mentioned in the summary? How did they feel about it? 		
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When has Cumulus had the strange feeling before? List two types of dinosaur Cumulus liked and two Cumulus was not fond of. Why did Cumulus like/dislike them? How do the Hidden Folk feel about how the world changed when Mortals came? Why do they feel this way? Why did Moss create an annual ballad? Why did Cumulus think their cousins could help them? Do you think they will? Explain why Moss was feeling less excited about their adventure than the others. What does Cumulus reciting a rhyme of reassurance for Moss suggest about Cumulus? What does it suggest about Cumulus's relationship with Moss? How did the Mortals feel when the tree fell? How do you know this? 	<p>Create your own ballad. This could be about the last year, like Moss's, or it could be about a particular period of time that stands out to you.</p> <p>Rewrite the tree falling from the Mortal's perspective. Think carefully about the five senses and include these in your description.</p>	<p>HISTORY/SCIENCE • Create a timeline of different eras throughout history, including those referenced in the book, e.g. the Ice Age, Triassic period, Jurassic period, evolution of man.</p>
3	<p>Before reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest why the author has titled the chapter 'Endings and Beginnings'. What do you think is ending? What do you think is beginning? 	<p>Write an explanation about what you would pack in a bag for going on an adventure. What are the important items? What other items (that are not necessities) would you want to take, and why?</p>	<p>GEOGRAPHY • Have a look at different types of maps for the local area. How are they the same? How are they different? Which ones are more useful and why? Can you create a route from one place to another?</p>



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	<p>After reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did the Hidden Folk feel when Ro came? Why did they feel this way? Can you find examples from the text to support this? • Explain why Moss's mind changed about going on the adventure. • Why couldn't Bob stay with the Hidden Folk for all of their journey? • Look at the map. Can you spot the route they were taking? 		
4	<p>Before reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does 'nocturnal predator' mean? Use a dictionary to help you if you need to. • Can you suggest what animal may be the 'nocturnal predator'? • Based on what you know about predators, do you think its discovering the campsite is going to be a positive or negative thing? Why? <p>After reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did Burnet use to help their navigation? • 'Spending the night in a tent is the most exciting thing.' Do you agree with this statement? Explain your opinion. • Why couldn't Moss and Cumulus sleep? • Look at the map. Can you spot where they've made camp? • How did the Hidden Folk feel about being asked if they were goblins? What does this suggest about their opinions of goblins? • Would the owl be pleased or displeased if the Hidden Folk decided to stay instead of passing through? Why would they feel this way? 	<p>Create a campsite experience on school grounds – build tents, cook over a campfire, play a soundscape of the countryside at night. Write a description of what it would be like sleeping in the tent at night.</p>	<p>SCIENCE • Investigate food chains. What is a predator? What is prey? Using paper chains, make food chains showing examples of predators and prey in Britain.</p> <p>Research different animals found in British wildlife – which ones are nocturnal? Which ones are diurnal? What do these words mean?</p> <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING/ COOKING • Create a campsite experience on school grounds – build tents, cook over a campfire. What materials could you use to make a good tent? Why would you use these materials? What risks are there with cooking over a campfire? How can you keep yourself safe?</p>



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Before reading the chapter:

- What is the meaning of 'smooth-talking'?
- What animal do you think it is referring to?
- Do you think they should trust this character?

After reading the chapter:

- True or false: the Hidden Folk were unafraid when they met the snake. Find evidence from the text to show why you think it is true or false.
- Look at page 53. Why has the author written the snake's speech in this way?
- How do you think you would feel if you were in Burnet's position when Burnet found out about Cumulus's hands? Do you think Burnet was right to feel that way? Why?
- On page 61, Cumulus and Burnet have opposing views on whether they would want to be invisible. Who do you agree with? Why?

Write an explanation about what you would do if you woke up and found that you were invisible for the day. Make sure to include your feelings as well as explaining what you would do and why.

SCIENCE • Research different ways in which animals adapt to the changing climate during the seasons, e.g. which animals hibernate? Why do they hibernate? Which birds migrate and why? Discuss and research changes that happen between seasons, e.g. life cycles of flowers, evergreen/deciduous trees.

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- How did Burnet know which way was north?
- Find and copy words or phrases that show the Hidden Folk were nervous about meeting the deer.
- Explain how the Hidden Folk showed their respect to the deer when they first arrived.
- What are the two conditions the Hidden Folk must follow in order for the deer to carry them?
- Would you have agreed to the conditions the deer set? Explain why/why not.

Write a persuasive argument about why the deer should take the Hidden Folk on their journey.

SCIENCE • Research and write a non-chronological report about wolves. Do they still exist in the UK? If not, why? Include this in your report.



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<p>7</p>	<p>Before reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at the map. The summary of the chapter is 'A great distance is travelled.' How far do you think they will travel? Can you find a place on the map that you think they will get to? <p>After reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the 'pair of small black tubes' the Mortal used to look at the deer? Explain why Fleet and Cumulus think Mortals are lonely. On page 78, find and copy a word that shows this part of their journey is dangerous. What was the danger that the deer referred to at the beginning of the chapter? Where do you think Burnet is? Do you think the others will find Burnet? 		<p>COMPUTING • Design a program to navigate a programmable robot (e.g. Beebot) across a 'road', avoiding obstacles.</p>
<p>8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What did Fleet, Moss and Cumulus think had happened to Burnet? Explain the real reason why Burnet arrived later than the others. Do you think the deer were right to stop the Hidden Folk travelling any further with them for breaking their vow? Explain your reasoning. What happened to Cloudberry? Predict what will happen next. Do you think the cousins are at home or not? Why? Summarise what happened in the first part of the book. What is the smallest number of words you can do it in? 	<p>Write a discussion about whether Burnet made the right decision to break the vow. Do you think the deer should have let the Hidden Folk continue on their journey with them?</p>	<p>PSHE • Research and create a poster promoting road safety.</p>



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Before reading the chapter:

- Suggest why the author decided to split the book into sections. What does the start of a new section signify? Why is this section called 'Oak'?

After reading the chapter:

- List three examples of animals seen in the Folly Brook.
- Explain why Burnet and Cumulus thought somebody lived in the oak tree.
- Compare Sorrel's feelings when the Hidden Folk first knocked on the door to Sorrel's feelings at the end of the chapter. How are they the same? How are they different?
- What kind of animal is Hetty?
- How does Sorrel's home differ from Moss, Cumulus and Burnet's home?

Rewrite the chapter from the perspective of Sorrel. What would Sorrel be thinking and feeling?

ART • Create a painting of the Folly Brook based on the description.

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Before reading the chapter:

- What do you think the shock will be that the summary is referring to?
- Based on the title of the chapter, do you think the relationship between the Hidden Folk and Sorrel will be positive or negative?

After reading the chapter:

- Sorrel said it was an extremely special occasion. Why does Sorrel think this? What is the special occasion referred to?
- Why did Moss enjoy telling stories?
- How did Burnet feel upon realising their feet were disappearing?
- Which contraption do you think would be the most useful? Why?

Create a persuasive advert for one of Sorrel's contraptions, or the contraption you designed. What makes it so unique? Why is it useful?

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY • Design and create a contraption similar to Sorrel's. What would be its purpose? How would you make it – what materials would you need?



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- Using the text to help you, explain why otters make good friends.
- What was the real reason for Moss staying behind whilst the others went to help Cluck build a nest?
- Why would the Hidden Folk think the Mortal's Hive would be the last place you would find other Hidden Folk?
- Do you think the Hidden Folk are making the right decision by going to the Mortal's Hive?

SCIENCE • Learn about the phases of the moon and the changes to length of day and night throughout the seasons.

MUSIC • Use a range of instruments to create a piece of music representing the sounds of the Folly Brook.

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Before reading the chapter:

- What do you think the 'exciting machine' is going to be?
- How will the machine help the Hidden Folk?
- Look at the map. Do you think it will be easy or difficult for them to make their way to the Mortal's Hive?
- What would be your plan to get to the Mortal's Hive?

After reading the chapter:

- How did the Hidden Folk feel when they first saw the machine? Why did they feel this way?
- Explain what is meant by a 'whizz-bang'. Why do you think this? Use evidence from the text to support you.
- Why would the stream people have 'astonished stares'?
- Describe how the Hidden Folk's feelings towards the machine changed by the end of the chapter. Why did they change?

Create a set of instructions on how to create the machine using rubber bands and wheels. Be sure to include a detailed diagram to help your reader understand.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY • Design and create a model of the contraption using rubber bands and wheels.

SCIENCE • Investigate levers, pulleys and gears and use this knowledge to create a model of the contraption in the book.



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Before reading the chapter:

- What do you think 'a dip in the drink' refers to?
- What is the 'hasty decision' that is mentioned in the summary?
- Based on the summary, do you think the chapter will be a positive or a negative one? Why do you think this?

After reading the chapter:

- How did Spangle wake the Hidden Folk?
- Why were the Hidden Folk still asleep when Spangle arrived?
- Based on the description on page 133, what do you think the 'Hive' is?
- Explain why the route being uphill would cause a problem.

GEOGRAPHY • Research the physical and human geographical features of a city and a village. Compare the two by analysing their similarities and differences.

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- Compare Sorrel's and Burnet's feelings at the beginning of the chapter. Why did they feel this way?
- Explain why a pigeon is the best option to take the Hidden Folk to the Hive.
- Why did they have to leave so soon?
- How did they feel about their upcoming adventure? How do you think you would feel in that situation?
- Why do you think Moss hasn't told the others about Cumulus's disappearing arms and legs?

Write a continuation of the story. What do you think will happen when the pigeons arrive? What will the flight be like? Will they arrive at the Mortal's Hive safely?

SCIENCE • Research different bird species and how they are adapted to their environments. How are their differences in diet, habitat, and activity reflected in their anatomy?



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<p>15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List the names of the four pigeons taking the Hidden Folk to the Hive. Find and copy a phrase that shows Moss was feeling nervous. (page 147) Why did the pigeons have to land earlier than expected? Sequence the sights below in the order in which the Hidden Folk saw them during their flight: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – train, lake, motorway, warehouse, a road with cars, moorland. 	<p>Write a diary entry for one of the Hidden Folk about their experience of flying with the pigeons. Make sure to include their inner thoughts and feelings.</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>Before reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you think Cumulus's story will be? <p>After reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggest why the Hidden Folk think the Mortals' Hive smells funny. Explain why the cars come out at those particular times during the day. How did Cumulus lose an eye? Why did Sorrel reach out and squeeze Burnet's hand? Do you think Cumulus was right to put on a brave face? Why do you think this? 	<p>Write a description of what your local area was like in the past, and describe the changes that followed throughout history.</p>	<p>SCIENCE • Research how plants and animals have adapted to changes within cities.</p> <p>HISTORY/GEOGRAPHY • Research how the local area has changed throughout history, including the development of larger cities.</p>
<p>17</p>	<p>Before reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who do you think the new friend will be? Predict who is lost in the next chapter. <p>After reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did the others feel when they realised that Cumulus is continuing 	<p>Write a short explanation of what Mortal food you think the Hidden Folk would enjoy the most and why.</p>	<p>SCIENCE • Research the difference between red and grey squirrels and their abundance in Britain. Find out about the introduction of grey squirrels to Britain and the issues this has caused. Can you find other</p>



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	<p>to disappear?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On page 176, what are the 'little black slabs' that the author refers to? Why did Moss decide to go for a walk? Do you think Moss was right not to tell the others about the walk? How do you think the others will feel and react when they realise Moss is gone? 		<p>examples of how introducing a new species to a country has detrimental effects?</p>
18	<p>Before reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you think Spangle's plan will be? <p>After reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What did they think was the reason for Moss's lie-in? How did they realise Moss was gone? How did they feel once they had realised? What is the greatest danger on expeditions? How did Burnet and Cumulus know something was wrong? Do you think Cumulus is right to trust the foxes? Why? 	<p>Write a short narrative from the perspective of one of the other Hidden Folk about searching for Moss in the park. Where did they look? How did they feel? Describe the setting and sequence of events.</p>	<p>ART/COMPUTING • Using traditional art materials or computer software, design and create a missing person's poster for Moss. Think carefully about what details you need to include to help people find Moss.</p>
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On page 194, find and copy a word that shows the animals were tired. How did Spangle and the fox communicate? Explain why Burnet, Cumulus and Sorrel would struggle to sleep. Suggest why Sorrel would be the one to be able to start the conversation about what would happen if Moss never returned. Why would Cumulus and Burnet not feel able to start this conversation? 		<p>SCIENCE • Learn about the life cycle of an amphibian, such as a toad, and describe the key features of each stage.</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did Sorrel know that Burnet and Cumulus were not asleep? • Describe how Moss felt when explaining how to make 'poppy-seed jelly'. What evidence is there in the text to support this? Why did Moss feel this way? • Why did the toads go 'a bit cross-eyed' when they heard about the 'poppy-seed jelly'? 		
20	<p>Before reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a foe? • What do the title and summary suggest will happen in the chapter? <p>After reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did Vesper know that the acorn hat belonged to Moss? • Suggest how Cumulus feels when approaching the rat for the first time. Why did Cumulus feel this way? • Find and copy a word or phrase that shows Burnet was embarrassed to have judged the rat so quickly. • Do you think the Hidden Folk are right to trust and follow the rat? Explain your answer. 	<p>Write a continuation of the story. What do you think happens when they go into the darkness with the rat? What do you think they will find? Will the rat prove to be a good or bad character?</p>	
21	<p>Before reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think they find inside the Mortal home? • Why do you think it changes everything and everyone? 	<p>Write a chapter that shows what happened to Moss between being caught by the cat and arriving in the building with the Hobs.</p>	<p>ART • Based on the description in the book, draw or paint a picture of the Hobs' home.</p>



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	<p>After reading the chapter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give 3 examples of 'hidden spaces' in buildings. • On page 214, what is the author's opinion on animals sharing humans' homes? How do you know? • What was Barry referring to when he said it could 'be a lot worse'? • How did the Hidden Folk feel when they first arrived on the ledge? Can you find evidence from the text to support this? • How did Cumulus, Burnet and Sorrel know the creatures they had seen were Hidden Folk too? 		<p>DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY • Design and create some Hobs' clothing. What kinds of materials could you use? Why would Hobs use this material? Where would they get it? What joining techniques are you going to use?</p>
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how Min and Mac managed to rescue Moss from the cat. • Create a table of similarities and differences between Hobs and Hidden Folk. • Why do some buildings not have Hobs living in them? • List the reasons why the party was not held outdoors. • What happens to Hidden Folk/Hobs when they are fading? • Explain what Cumulus's plan is to help the Wild World. • Why does Moss have lots of time left before fading? • Do you think the Hidden Folk will be able to change Mortals' behaviour? Explain why you think this. 	<p>Do you think Mortals are ready to look after the Wild World by themselves? Write a balanced argument, including arguments that agree and disagree, as well as ending with your opinion.</p> <p>Write a persuasive letter to a member of the local or national government, trying to persuade them to introduce new ideas to protect the environment.</p> <p>Finish Moss's ballad about what has happened in the book.</p>	<p>SCIENCE/COMPUTING/ART/PSHE • Research the impact of human behaviour and activity on wildlife and the world. Create a PowerPoint/poster/video or other media to raise awareness of the impact of humans on the natural world, and provide information of how people can help to protect it.</p> <p>HISTORY • Research significant individuals throughout history that have had a profound impact on protecting the natural world, e.g. David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg. Write a biography/fact file about their achievements.</p>

