



 @yarrowtownsend

The MAP of LEAVES

YARROW TOWNSEND

CHAPTER-BY-CHAPTER RESOURCES

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Chapter	Comprehension Questions	Writing Opportunities	Cross-Curricular Opportunities
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What can you infer about Orla from the author's description of her? Why do you think Orla is reluctant to take the plants' advice? And why does she finally decide make pine tar? Why should the village of Thorn Creek have been abandoned a long time ago? 	Create a character profile for Orla.	<p>SCIENCE • Draw some of the plants/leaves mentioned in this chapter, labelling their different parts and specific characteristics.</p> <p>SCIENCE • Make a note of all plants at the start of each chapter and see how many you can identify when you are out and about.</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Orla think the plants on the route to the woods are different from those in her garden? What language does the author use to personify the plants and trees? What can you infer about Westharbour from the details given about Inishowen Atlas? Can you describe how Orla feels about Haulers? How can you tell Orla is upset by the plants' silence? 	Write a diary entry about the black marks Orla first notices on the comfrey leaves, as well as on the pine tree and its root and the plants by the water's edge. What might she record about the marks/stains and how prevalent they are?	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is this plant sickness different from previous sicknesses Orla dealt with in the past? How does Orla distract herself from worrying about the plants? Why does Orla reject the advice Elias gives her about medicine for Captain? Orla is hostile towards both visitors to the woodshed. Why does she listen to Idris Romero? Do you think Orla needs to listen to the wormwood? 		<p>ART • Draw a cross section of the woodshed with as much detail as possible.</p>



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4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How is Idris's home different from Orla's? How is it different from what she expected? Why does Idris think Orla can help Castor? Does Orla have a good reason to dismiss what Castor is trying to tell them? What are the reasons for Orla's refusal to help Castor? 	Make an emotion map of Orla's feelings – from when she first gets to Idris and Castor's home to when she storms out.	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the plant sickness affected Orla personally? How does the author show the reader that something ominous is coming to Thorn Creek? Pick out some text to support your answer. What explanation does Atlas have for the coming sickness? What action does the Warden take to prevent the sickness in Thorn Creek? 	Write a character profile based on Atlas from the information we've been given about him so far.	PSHE • Research the benefits of quarantining sick people as a public health tool. What other public health measures might the authorities take?
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do the Haulers intend to ensure Orla complies with the order to clear her garden? What can you infer about the Haulers from the way they behave in Orla's garden? The Haulers coming to Orla's garden is a disaster. Pick out some text to support this statement. 		
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlas dismisses Orla as a wild and unschooled child till she blurts out something to prove her mother knew what she was doing. What do you think this is? 	Write a journal entry as Ariana Claw about Orla's visit to Hind House.	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Atlas blame Orla's mum for the death of two of his men? Hind House makes Orla feel sick. Why do you think she feels this way? What makes Orla suspicious of Atlas's real thoughts about plants being the source of the illness? 		
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What prompts Orla to leave home? How does Orla keep her garden safe? Why do you think the plants encourage her to leave? What is likely to happen to the village if all the grain is destroyed to prevent the sickness? Why does Orla go back to Hind House? 	Make a diary entry detailing Orla's observations of the Haulers at the Hind House jetty.	GEOGRAPHY • Draw a map of your local area. Take care to mark out the topographical features and local vegetation.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What mission does Idris assume Orla is travelling to accomplish? Why does Orla assume that it would be better if she were the only stowaway on the Haulers' boat? Was Orla right to try to protect the garden? What happens once the Haulers leave? Why do you think Orla is the only one that can hear the plants? 	Orla has very strong feelings about Haulers. Write an article exploring if you think she's justified in thinking Haulers and everyone associated with them are bad. Support your position using the text.	ART & DESIGN • Research types of boats and draw a boat suitable for travelling and transporting goods and people using the waterways described by the author.
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Idris seems better prepared for the trip than Orla. Do you agree? Explain your reasoning. Why do you think Orla is unable to sleep on the Hauler boat? 	Write a character profile for Idris including all the information you know about him and anything you can infer from his behaviour.	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is Idris right to say Orla doesn't like helping people? Why do you think Orla asks Idris for help with her plan? 	Write some lyrics to help Orla cope with the journey in the Haulers' boat.	MUSIC • The Haulers sing as they steer their boat. Discuss the role music plays in helping people cope with travelling.
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why do you think Leblanc is so unsettled? What does Orla learn from the plants at Dead Elm Strand? Idris modifies Orla's plan. Do you think this is helpful? Discuss. What is Orla's first instinct when she gets the paddles to the boat? Orla grabs at the willow branches – why do think she does this? What prompts this? 		GEOGRAPHY • Add symbols to your map detailing the local wildlife.
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ariana suggests that they drop anchor because it's dark. Why does Orla oppose her suggestion? What can you infer about the role of women in this society? Support your answer with information from all chapters so far. What can you infer from Ariana's observations? Why does Orla think going alone will be better? 	<p>Write a newspaper article about the role of women in this society, making a case for using their talents for the benefits of everyone.</p> <p>Orla has always heard plants talking. Make an emotion map about how she feels when she realizes they are not talking to her because they don't trust her.</p>	SCIENCE • Ariana states she's been monitoring the water in Thorn Creek. Test local water from various sources (taps, collected rainwater, swimming pools, any natural water bodies – pond, canal, stream, lake, river or sea) for pH levels, hardness, alkalinity, chlorine, nitrates/nitrites and dissolved solids. What can you infer about the water?



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13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Orla initially refuse to help the man they find in the water? How does Idris persuade Orla to help? Can you explain why Orla is certain it's the same illness? 		
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What's another name for the map of leaves? Do you think this is a good name for the sickness? How does seeing the sick Hauler affect the children? What do they learn from overhearing the Haulers' conversation? What does Orla learn from the memory triggered by seeing the map of leaves on the Hauler? 		
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orla is adamant they need to go to Fleetwater: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does she think so? How does she try to persuade Idris and Ariana that she's right? Orla has more memories triggered. What does her memory of Fleetwater suggest she might find there? Who do you think is 'that woman'? 		SCIENCE • Research how glass is made. Explore the difference between methods used in factories and those used by artisans.
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underline key words or phrases in the text that tell you how Orla feels as they approach Fleetwater. How do the children realize there is no one in Fleetwater? Orla tries to ask the plants for directions when they find the town abandoned – does she get any useful information? 	Write a newspaper article announcing that a weir will be built at Fleetwater and explaining all the benefits to the town. Include if there's any opposition, and the reasons why this is the case.	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY • Design a weir for your local community. Consider the qualities of different materials and technology you can use and how they might affect performance.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Orla find in the house with honeysuckle that convinces her there are other people around? 		
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the author signal that Orla is right about the light they see from Fleetwater? Support your answer from the text. What convinces Orla that there are people living in the woods? Why does Magda think the children could be sick? Why does Magda think it's impossible that Orla is there? 	Write the confrontation with Magda from Ariana's point of view. Explore why she might be nervous when Magda is suspicious of them. What does she make of Orla's silence and Idris's response?	SCIENCE • Research the different types of amnesia and what can trigger it. Do you think this could explain why Orla can't remember being ill?
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did Orla's mum save Matteas and Magda? Matteas and Magda's story doesn't support what Orla thinks about Fleetwater. Why is she convinced they can't be right? 	Draw an emotion map exploring Idris's feelings when the children realize there is no cure in Fleetwater. Consider his feelings about Orla.	ENVIRONMENT • Research what you would need to survive in your local area – consider what you'd need for shelter, food and water.
19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orla recognizes the shape of the key and this triggers a memory. What does this prompt her to do? Idris explodes when Orla suggests they go on to Alder Carr – why do you think this happens? What does Orla notice about Idris as he tries to get Matteas to remember something more helpful? What can we infer from this? How does Ariana take charge of the situation? Do you think she is right? 	Predict what happens next in the story. Do you think the key will lead them to the cure?	SCIENCE • Go back to your notes about plants in your environment. Can you add any research about each plant's properties and function?



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20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plants alert Orla to danger. What does Orla do differently from earlier in the novel? How do you think the Haulers found the children? How does Matteas help as they leave hurriedly and what does this remind Orla of? Why do you think Silas wants Orla's mum's book? Why does this confuse and paralyse her? 	Add to your character profile of Orla. Do you think the manner in which she escapes from Bouchard supports what you know about her?	SCIENCE • Explore and make a list of how to track movement using clues left in the environment. Consider if humans are easier to track than animals.
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you describe how the author uses the quality of light through the novel? What effect does this have? What do the children disagree about as they escape from the Haulers? What does Ariana reveal about Atlas, and how does Orla respond? What is the significance of the memory triggered by the rosehip tea? What is Orla convinced she needs to do? 	Write a letter from Ariana to her mother, Josephine Claw, describing the events since she left home. What might be the highlights so far for her?	SCIENCE • Think about the natural growth cycles of plants. How would you use plants to make a map or trail that someone could follow all year round?
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does the vegetation change as they approach the Untold Forest? Idris insists they need to go to the mountains instead of Alder Carr. Do you think he is right? Why does the boat hit a jagged rock? What happens next? How does Orla respond when she pulls herself out of the water? Why do you think she refuses to cross the bridge? 	The children decide to vote about their next destination. Write arguments supporting either Idris or Orla. Try to use arguments that might sway Ariana one way or the other.	



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23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can you infer what the author means by 'she tramped defiantly onwards'? Support your answer using the text. What do you think Orla feels about her decision to continue on her own? What does the forest wormwood think? How does Orla know she's on the right track? 		ART • Draw or make a model of Elizabeth's glasshouse. If making a model, what materials would you use?
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Orla realize about her mother's desire to go back to Fleetwater once she discovers the glasshouse? Do you think Orla feels closer to her mother here? Do you think the variety of plants in the glasshouse affects Orla's confidence about her ability to make medicines? Orla is shocked to discover the plants in the glasshouse are hostile to her. How does she convince them help? 	Write a report following a school visit to a botanical garden: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include the variety of plants and geographical locations/distances they come from. Explore the pros and cons of such collections and consider the ethical implications of moving plants from natural environments and who might benefit from such arrangements. 	SCIENCE • What are greenhouses used for? Research famous greenhouses including the extent of their plant collections.
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When Atlas appears at the glasshouse, Orla realizes he has been after her mother's book and the cure. What makes her confused about why he wants the cure? Why do the plants warn her to run rather than hide? Leblanc runs into trouble while destroying the plants. Why does this happen? 	Poisons often occur in nature, but people assume everything natural is beneficial. Write an article about the benefits and dangers of the natural environment. Consider what basic knowledge people might need.	ART • Make a poster to be put up in a nature park warning people not to pick the plants as several might be poisonous.



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26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Orla feel when the plants go silent again? Where does Orla find refuge after she escapes from Atlas and his men? Why does Orla feel the hollow tree is cold and empty, despite having a fire? What information does Orla find out about the bottle she got from the glasshouse? How does Orla feel about Atlas's actions? 	Elizabeth thought the world's treasures should be for everyone, but Atlas thinks they should be for those brave enough to take them. Debate this topic. Write your points for either Elizabeth's or Atlas's viewpoint.	PSHE • What does sustainability mean? Research the key principles of sustainability. Do you think Atlas's actions are sustainable?
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Orla understand when she comes across the tracks left by Idris and Ariana? Pick out some of the language the author uses to show Orla noticing or experiencing the environment changes as she goes further north. What helps Orla make the link between what she sees and Castor's words? 		SCIENCE/ENVIRONMENT • Research the effects of pollution. How do different mining operations or factories pollute the environment? What is the overall effect on the earth's ecosystems? Make a list of the main types of environmental pollution.
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Orla discover when she gets through the gates? What crucial truth does Orla realize about Atlas's greed? Does Orla confirm where Idris and Ariana are exactly? How does Orla get into the mine? What seems out of place at the mine? 	Orla is struck by the different smells and sounds of the mine. Create a document using the descriptions in the text detailing how different the mine is from the natural world.	ENVIRONMENT • Atlas has a factory in the mill to process the pitchstone as soon as it is mined. List the benefits of having the factory so close to the mine. Do you think there are any environmental benefits to having the factory close to the mine?



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29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Orla work out how the mine poisons the environment? When Orla tries to tell the old lady about her discovery, she reveals she has the <i>mapafoglia</i>. What important discovery does Orla make about the workers? What memory does being in the mine trigger for Orla? What else does Orla find in the mine? 	Write some lyrics for a song for the miners to sing while working. What subjects might motivate them to keep working?	
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you think Orla's feelings towards Ariana have changed? Support your answer using the text. Describe Orla's feelings when she learns that her mother's book is not lost to the river. What does it mean for Orla that most of the text of her mother's book is written in waterproof ink? Why do the workers in the mine fall silent? 	<p>Write a newspaper article exposing working conditions at the mine. Consider if and how pitchstone can be mined safely or if it needs to be mined at all.</p> <p>Write a letter home from one of the miners describing working conditions in the mines.</p>	PSHE • Research health and safety regulations. What do they aim to achieve?
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Orla get the attention of the mine workers? Why are the miners reluctant to leave the mine? Why do you think the Haulers try to stop Orla and Ariana from speaking to the miners? Where does Bouchard take them? 		
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orla is surprised by the scale of the mill. Use some phrases and words in text to support this statement. What do you think Atlas is doing with Silas by the furnace? 	Write a speech to convince the miners to join a union. Think about what type of union is appropriate	SCIENCE • Discuss the role of educated guesses in innovation in science. What is the scientific name



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why does Orla threaten to burn the book? What puts an end to the confrontation between Orla and Atlas and the Haulers? What does Orla realize about the silver plant Atlas dismisses as a weed? What is it called? Why do you think it took the workers so long to rise up against Atlas? What do you think caused the change? 	and the benefits they might gain. Do you think you should include some of the risks?	for this? ART • Design a poster inviting the mine workers to a meeting to discuss unionizing.
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do the children plan to do now they know which plant has the antidote to pitchstone? How do Orla's friends help her find the hidden message in the book? Why is Idris certain that the Haulers will find them soon? 	Predict what might happen next in the story.	
34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do the children get the better of the Haulers, Silas and Bouchard? Where does the green light come from and how does it help the children? Why do you think Ariana is so exhausted? Why are the children able to outsmart the Haulers and travel faster? 		
35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do the plants welcome Orla back to Thorn Creek? How does this make her feel? Why do you think Orla runs away when they discover how ill Ariana is? What do you think of Idris's speech about being afraid? Do you agree? 	Write the events of this chapter from Idris's point of view. Explore his feelings when Orla runs away and leaves him with Ariana.	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore what makes Orla change her mind and decide to try to help Ariana. 	Make another emotion map for Orla. How have her emotions changed as the story has unfolded? What has stayed the same?	
36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hind House is dark when they arrive. How do you think this makes Ariana feel? Why do the children become frustrated after they follow the instructions in the book? How do the children work out the last piece of the puzzle to make the medicine blue? Why do you think Atlas takes Ariana as well as the medicine? 	Put yourself in Orla's position after Atlas locks her in Hind House. What thoughts would go through your mind? Write a short journal entry about it.	SCIENCE • If you had to set up a makeshift lab, how would you improvise the equipment you would need? Make a list.
37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Orla escape from Hind House? Elias Dawson and Callahan Reed block Atlas from leaving Thorn Creek. What made them suspicious of him? How does Atlas try to get control of the situation? How do they know that the medicine works? 	<p>Add to your character profile of Atlas. What personality trait drives all his actions? Do you think he cares about anyone else?</p> <p>Turn the confrontation between the residents of Thorn Creek into a script for a scene in a play.</p>	DRAMA • Design a set for the confrontation between the residents of Thorn Creek and Atlas.
38	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orla recovers another fragment of her memory and she realizes Atlas was ill at the same time as her mum and herself. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why is she certain Atlas stole the last dose of the medicine? 		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does Atlas defend himself? How does Orla prove he is lying? Atlas constantly underestimates Orla. Why do you think he does this? Support your answer using the text. Why do you think Atlas escapes from Thorn Creek? 		
39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you think Atlas would have thrown Orla over the bridge? The Haulers have been loyal henchmen to Atlas through the novel. Why do you think they turn against Atlas? Why do you think Atlas is convinced he's won Silas over? 	Silas deals with Atlas on the spot. Debate for or against Atlas standing trial at Westharbour.	PSHE • What are extrajudicial punishments? Explore why it is important to go through the legal system for justice.
40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Orla is delighted to be back home in the woodshed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does she do differently? What do you think she has learnt from her adventure? What do you think about Elizabeth's reasoning for the glasshouse? Compare how Orla behaves towards visitors to the woodshed now and at the start of the novel. Why do you think she acts differently? What do you think about Ariana's suggestion to build a glasshouse at Hind House? Why doesn't Orla write her notes in code? 	Compare your predictions from earlier with the actual events of the novel – were any of your predictions right?	DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY • Design your own glasshouse detailing the dimensions. Specify what type of plants it will contain. SCIENCE • Research open access research. Do you support this, considering the events of the novel?
Epilogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do you think Orla feels when she finds her mother's grave? 	Write a book review on your own your thoughts about the story and why others should read it.	PSHE • Discuss how finding her mother's grave allows Orla to process her grief. Do you think it helped her?

