

T. A. Barron's Adventure for Young Readers

TREE GIRL

Chapter 16 — Questions and Activities

Language Arts: Internal Dialogue

Have you ever had thoughts in your head that you did not say out loud? It's normal. Most people do. The thoughts inside someone's head is called "internal dialogue."

Writers use internal dialogue to help convey feelings, the character's personality, show secret thoughts, expose motive for behaviors, and show inner conflict. In this chapter, Anna has an internal dialogue about what might happen to the High Willow. Did you notice it?

Trying making up your own story incorporating your character's internal dialogue or thoughts. If you don't want to write a story, try making a comic strip instead. This online comic creator is fun and easy to use (requires Adobe Flash Player):

<http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/interactives/comic/>

Science: Panting/Heaving Breathing

Have you ever found yourself breathing hard after a lot of exercise or physical activity? That's what happened to Master Mellwyn after his journey back after retrieving Anna from the woods. Have you ever wondered why we breathe so heavily after strenuous activity? This website explains it and has an interesting experiment you can perform: <https://mocomi.com/what-is-panting/>

Mini-Book: We weren't introduced to any new trees in this chapter but that doesn't mean we need to stop adding to our book. The Giant Sequoia is one of the largest species of trees on Earth. Read about the Giant Sequoia and add it to your mini-book.

- 🌳 Giant Sequoia Facts for Kids: https://www.softschools.com/facts/plants/giant_sequoia_facts/665/
- 🌳 Climbing a Giant Sequoia Tree: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8ihXqMqGok>



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Engineering: Wedge

Master Mellwyn planned on using an axe to cut down the High Willow. An axe is a wedge with a sharp edge, fashioned to a handle. A wedge is considered one of the six simple machines that we use to help make hard tasks easier. (We learned about another one, pulleys, in chapter nine.)

This short video will help explain what a wedge is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAAwZird80k> and this longer video gives some very good demonstrations of wedges at work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=No5Df2231YA>.

With permission (and maybe some help), you can try wedges for yourself using things you probably already have at home: <https://tinybop.com/blog/simple-machines-experiment-see-how-a-wedge-works>.

History: Harry Houdini

Anna worked hard to escape from being tied to a post. Some people might tease her (in good fun) and call her “Harry Houdini.” Harry Houdini was a very famous escape artist and would draw a massive crowd to watch him escape from impossible situations.

You can read more about Harry Houdini here:

https://www.ducksters.com/biography/entertainers/harry_houdini.php

or watch this video biography:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKG_S-nKu0I.

Watch his famous straight jacket escape here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3r8qr-p9z5g>.

