

T. A. Barron's Adventure for Young Readers

TREE GIRL

Chapter 2 — Questions and Activities

Music: Make Up a Tune

Music can help us feel things. Sometimes it's sadness and other times it can be love or just having fun. Anna made up a song to help Master Mellwyn improve his mood. The clues in the book tell us this might be a happy song: "While she worked and sang, Anna tapped her bare feet on the dirt. Every so often, she kicked a leg out to the side, or even spun a turn."

Make up a tune to the song:

*Silver whale, silver whale, swim home to me
For I am your anchor, your windward, your lee.
Wide be your tail, aye—wide as the sea
Silver whale, silver whale, swim home to me.*

*Seal puppy, seal puppy, glide home to me
For I am your haven, your windward, your lee.
Soft be your nose, aye—soft as the sea
Seal puppy, seal puppy, glide home to me.*

*Eider bird, eider bird, fly home to me
For I am your landing, your windward, your lee.
Wet be your wings, aye—wet as the sea
Eider bird, eider bird, fly home to me.*

*All of you, all of you, come home to me
For I am your everywhere: I am the sea!
Visit yon shores, aye—mountain and tree
But ever your heart shall return home to me.*



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Science: Owls

In Chapter 1, we learned that on one side of Anna's cottage was a beach and on the other was a forest. The last line of the second chapter says, "And from beyond the cottage walls came the mournful call of an owl, echoing in the night air."

Do you think the owl call came from the beach or the forest? Read more about owls here: <https://www.coolkidfacts.com/owl-facts-for-kids/>

The author doesn't specify what kind of owl it was, but there are actually many different kinds! Listen to different owl calls here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezaBqCf0hv0>



Mini-Book: We haven't been introduced to any new trees in this chapter but that doesn't mean we can't keep learning about them! One beautiful tree you can add to your book is the Cherry Blossom tree. Learn more about this tree and add a new page to your book.

- 🌳 All About Cherry Blossoms: <https://www.kidzworld.com/article/29990-all-about-cherry-blossoms>
- 🌳 Japanese Cherry Blossom: 10 Facts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sX9wT-OezSg>

Social Studies: Families

From Chapter 1 and Chapter 2, we know that Anna hardly remembers her birth mother and lives with Master Mellwyn. Master Mellwyn found Anna in the roots of the High Willow. He took her home to take care of her. Not all families are the same. Each family is special. Sometimes people join families through marriage, birth, or adoption. Who is part of your family?

Draw a picture of your family or download a free family tree template and complete it. <https://www.familytreetemplates.net/>



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Language Arts: Names and Nicknames

In the first chapter, we learn that the main character of our book is called, “Anna.” But, in the second chapter, Master Mewllyn calls her by her full name “Rowanna.”

“Anna” is short for “Rowanna.” Some people like to be called by their shortened names and some people like to be called by their full name. For example, someone with the name “Christina” might go by “Christie,” “Chrissy,” “Chris,” or even “Tina.” How do you know what name they like to be called? Just ask!

What is your full name? Do you like to be called by your full name or a shortened name? What about other people you know?

Life Skills: Rules

Master Mellwyn made it very clear that Anna is not supposed to go into the woods. In fact, he doesn’t even want her to look at them! This might sound very mean, but Master Mellwyn only wants to keep Anna safe.

Are there rules in your house that need to be followed? Make a list of those rules and talk about why they are important. You can bet that the rules are there for a reason.

