

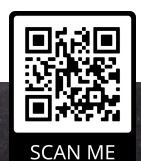


Discussion Questions and Activity Sheets

For Key Stage 2

Themes: Creative Writing | English | Art

[Purchase Forest of Forbidden Magic](#)



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DESIGN A CHARM

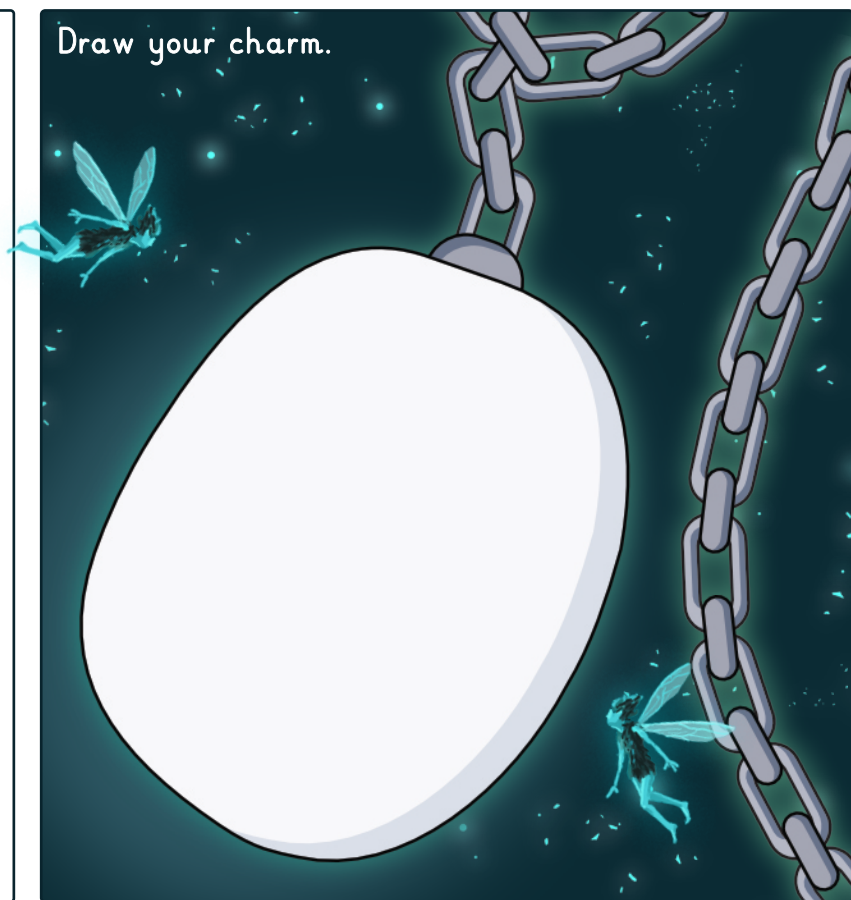
FOREST OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC

Design a silver charm inspired by the book, *Forest of Forbidden Magic* by Eve Wersocki Morris.

Which creature is your charm based on?

What powers does the charm give to the holder?

Draw your charm.



What would you use your charm for, in real life?



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EXTRACT 1

FOREST OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC

TAKEN FROM CHAPTER 1 – THE LETTERS

CHAPTER ONE

THE LETTERS

Tig had no reason to suspect that the letters would contain the start of something – and the end of everything else.

The first letter arrived on a school night and smelt of pine needles and damp earth. Tig almost stepped on it as he came through the front door, his mind on science homework and his missing PE shorts. He picked it up and felt a hard lump inside the brown envelope. It was addressed to *Tig and Elsa Dourwell* and had a stamp illustrated with a tiny emerald tree.

'Elsa, there's something from Grandfather Killian here,' said Tig, taking it into the kitchen.

Doctor Killian was a distant figure, like a character in a book Tig had half forgotten. He lived somewhere abroad, Tig was not quite sure where, and he only ever sent letters to them at Christmas. Today was not a letter day.

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Elsa, Tig's older sister, was already busily making their after-school snack. Tig placed the letter on the table and joined her at the kitchen counter. Tig and Elsa took snacks seriously. Today was toasted bagels.

Tig started on the toppings: peanut butter and raspberry jam; garlic cream cheese; and chocolate spread with sprinkles. Tig began making artistic swirls with the cream cheese. At school, Tig was known for speaking to people's shoes and staring out of windows. A recent growth spurt had made him one of the tallest boys in his class but Tig had much preferred being short and had started hunching his shoulders as if this might persuade his body to stop getting any taller.

Elsa was energetic and practical, and was generally overseeing the whole bagel operation. She bounced on her toes and would occasionally launch into star jumps if she stood still for too long. She talked with her hands and had a shout like a referee's whistle.

Perhaps because Elsa was naturally loud, it had made Tig naturally quiet. He didn't mind. If you were quiet, you were less likely to attract trouble. Tig knew people thought he was a scaredy-cat but he didn't know how to be anything else. Both siblings had inherited the Dourwell family features: dark eyebrows and eyes black

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does the smell of the letter tell you about where it could have come from?
- What clues are there that suggest that Tig and Elsa do not see their grandfather?
- Do you think Tig and Elsa get along well? How can you tell?
- What can you tell about Tig from the description? How would you describe his personality?
- What can you tell about Elsa from the description? How does her personality differ from Tig's?
- What do you think the letter could be about?



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EXTRACT 2

FOREST OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC

TAKEN FROM CHAPTER 6 – THE BEAST IN THE TREES

'Are you sure we're going the right way?' he whispered, his heart drumming in his ears.

The trees were so thick it was impossible to see further than five steps in every direction. They wouldn't see the road until they were right on top of it.

'Don't worry,' said Elsa.

'I do worry,' gulped Tig. 'If ever there was a time to worry – this is it! We're – what was that?'

He flung out an arm, catching Elsa in the stomach.

'Tig! Ouch!'

'Shh!'

They stared around. The shadows were getting deeper and the gaps between the trees were darker. Nothing stirred. The silence made Tig's skin crawl and he thought suddenly how very odd it was that they hadn't seen or heard any animals since entering the forest. It was deathly still.

'It's nothing,' murmured Elsa.

They walked on. Even Elsa was moving more quietly now. Tig's heart was battering inside his chest. He peered behind him and felt the hair on his arms stand up. Something was glinting between the trees. Two bright pinpricks of light – torches! Someone else in the forest! A cry for help rose up inside him but before he could shout, a horrible

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realisation came: those weren't torches; they were eyes.

'Elsa! Run!' Tig screamed.

As they ran for their lives, Tig could hear something huge pounding behind them, smashing through the trees. He could barely see from fear. Tree after tree blurred past him. He felt his heart might burst from his chest and his legs burnt. Elsa suddenly skidded to a stop and dragged Tig into a muddy hollow at the foot of an immense tree. Crouching in the dark, they peered up through the roots. For a second there was silence but then they heard the heavy *thump-thump* of giant paws. The smell of wet animal pelt filled his nostrils and, with a horrible shudder, Tig recognised the damp, dangerous scent he'd smelt when he'd held his silver charm that morning. The light above them was momentarily blocked as their huge foe passed their hiding spot. Tig saw grey-white fur and the arched underbelly of a gigantic beast.

Then came a growl that froze Tig's heart with fear. He was trembling so badly he was scared the beast would hear him. Tig shut his eyes, wishing himself far away. And as if in response, he heard a voice he knew calling his name. His eyes snapped open.

'Tig! Elsa . . . ?'

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do Tig and Elsa deal with the situation they find themselves in? How do their reactions differ?
- How does the author build the tension before Tig sees the glinting eyes?
- How does the pace of the story change when the beast begins to chase them?
- What clues are there in the text about the size of the beast?
- Who do you think was calling them?
- What do you think will happen next? How will they get out of the dangerous situation?



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EXTRACT 3

FOREST OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC

TAKEN FROM CHAPTER 15 – ESCAPE FROM A FAMILIAR FOE

'Oh, right.' Elsa watched the last of the miffbottoms' wagglng tails disappear up a tree. 'I thought they might be squirrels.'

'What are squirrels?' said Janek nervously.

Tig wasn't listening; he was staring at Ania. The object she had used to shoot the fairy was still in her hand.

'What's that?' said Tig. 'What did you just do?'

'I saved your friend's life – that's what,' said Ania defensively. 'It's a stunner.'

'I thought explorers were supposed to respect creatures in the forest,' said Tig, his voice rising. He didn't know if it was the aftermath of the fairy food, but he felt anger flare inside him, clawing at his throat. It must have shown on his face because Ania took a step back.

'I was trying to get us out alive!' shouted Ania, spitting like a cornered cat.

'Tig, she's got a point,' said Elsa fairly, then she frowned at Ania. 'But you should have told us about this stunner.'

'I thought I'd save it as a fun surprise,' said Ania sarcastically.

'You shouldn't have brought it,' muttered Tig.

'I agree with Tig,' said Janek, peeling off his crown

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of leaves and plasters with a wince. 'My mum says magic needs fairness and balance. That weapon isn't natural here – one more shot could fray the fabric of magic!'

Tig thought it strange how Janek spoke about magic as if was a physical thing, prone to rips and breakages. He wondered what would happen when magic did break.

Ania was staring daggers at them all. She spun on her heel and marched away. Tig realised he was squeezing the wolf charm in his fist. He put it back in his pocket and guilt washed over him. Ania was only trying to help.

It was then that Tig noticed the trees were different. They were no longer slim pines but were as wide as elephants with reddish bark and long drooping branches. The light that spiralled down through the leaves was like autumnal twilight. A honeyed smell came from the bark and Tig found himself wishing he could stop and stretch out against a trunk with his sketchbook.

'We must be on the second map,' said Elsa thoughtfully. She extracted the three maps out of her bag and held them up as they walked along.

Up ahead, Ania slowed her pace and Tig knew she was listening.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why would Janek not know what squirrels are?
- Explain why Ania took a step back when Tig spoke to her.
- How does Elsa react to Ania using the stunner? Why do you think her response changes?
- How does Janek view magic?
- What causes Tig to feel guilty?
- How did the terrain change as they moved on to the second map?



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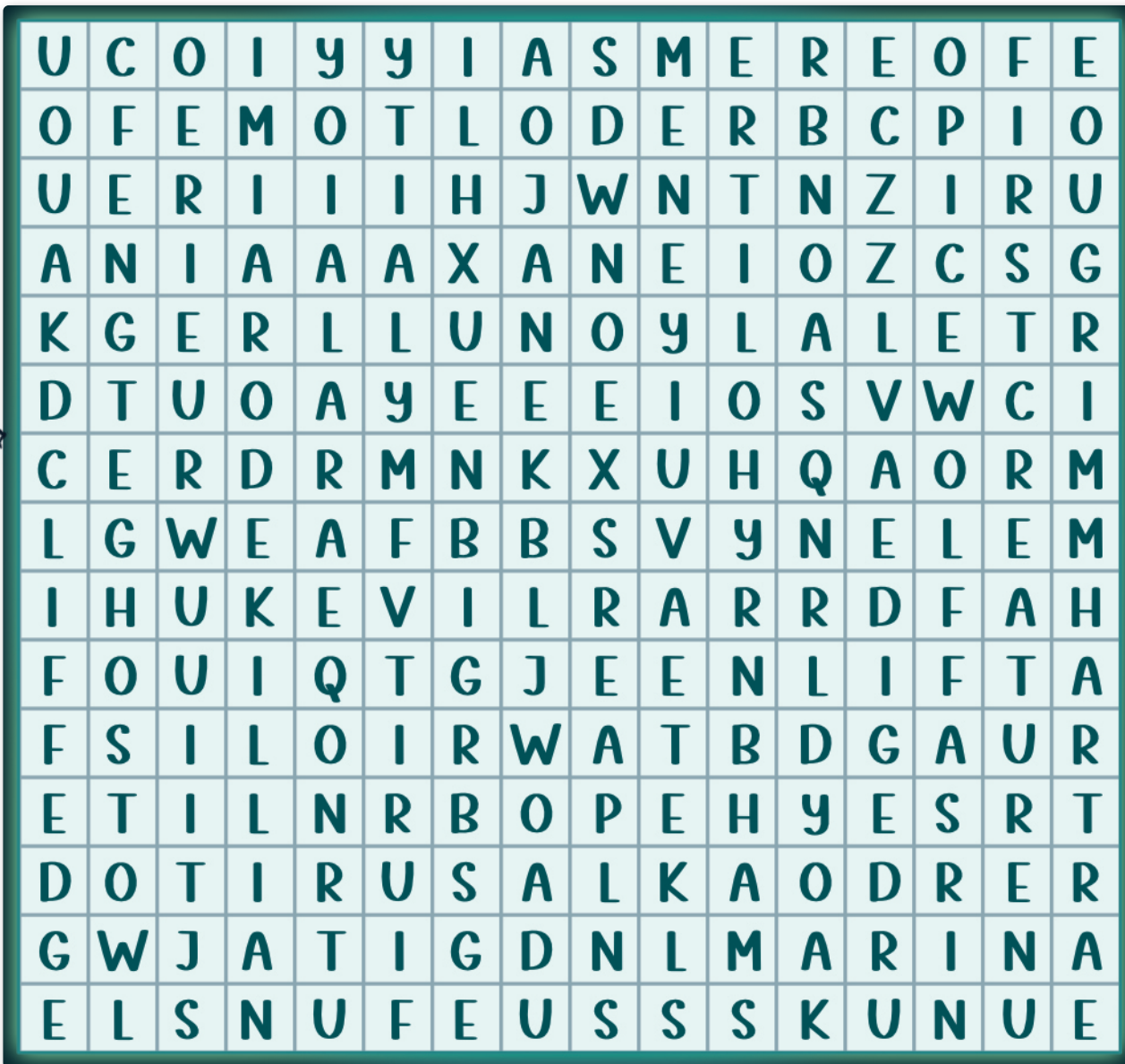
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WORDSEARCH

FOREST OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC



ANIA
ALEKSANDER
CLIFFEDGE
ELSA
FIRST CREATURE

GHOST OWL
GRIMMHART
ICE WOLF
JANEK
KILLIAN

MARINA
RAMBLETHORN
RUSALKA
TIG
TREE TROLLS



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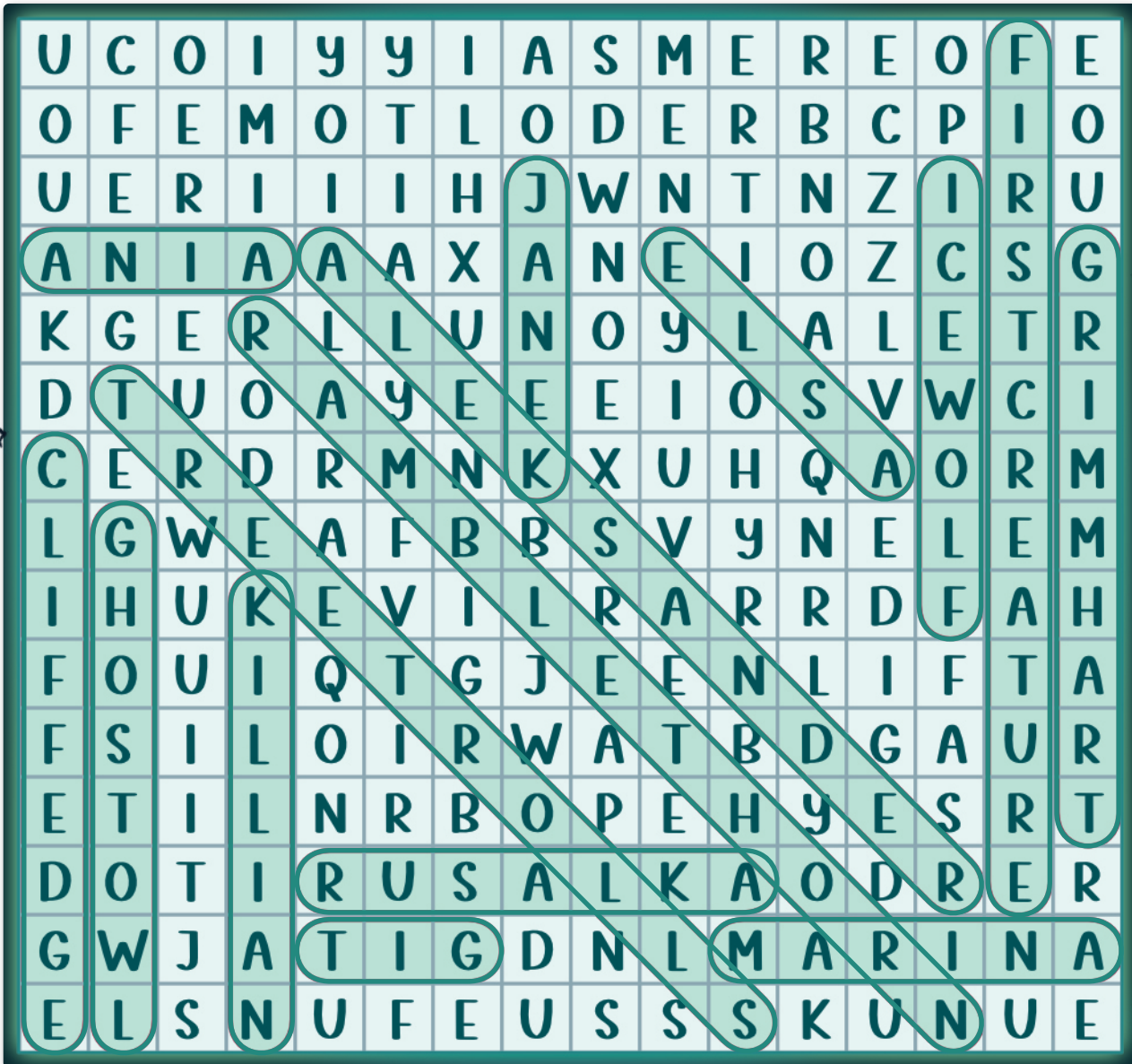
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WORDSEARCH ANSWERS

FOREST OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC



ANIA
ALEKSANDER
CLIFFEDGE
ELSA
FIRST CREATURE

GHOST OWL
GRIMMART
ICE WOLF
JANEK
KILLIAN

MARINA
RAMBLETHORN
RUSALKA
TIG
TREE TROLLS



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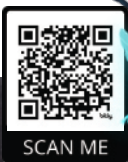


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FOREST OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC

[illegible]

FOREST OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC

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CHARACTER STUDY TIG DOURWELL

FOREST OF FORBIDDEN MAGIC

While reading *Forest of Forbidden Magic* by Eve Wersocki Morris, gather information about the main character, Tig.

You should add to each category as the story develops and you learn more about him.



What do you know about Tig? Give examples.

What is Tig's personality?
How does this develop throughout the story?

What are the relationships that are important to Tig during the story?

What challenges does Tig overcome?



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