

'A rich and powerful book.' Horatio Clare

BIGFOOT MOUNTAIN



Firefly

CONTENTS

- Literacy and Creative Writing tasks
(including an excerpt from Bigfoot Mountain)

- Geography and Environment tasks

- Art and Design tasks

Bigfoot Mountain
Roderick O'Grady, 2021

Illustrations by Jess Mason



LITERACY & CREATIVE WRITING

Although Minnie doesn't want 'researchers' bothering her forest friends, imagine if word got out and someone wrote a newspaper article about the comings and goings at the cabin complex.

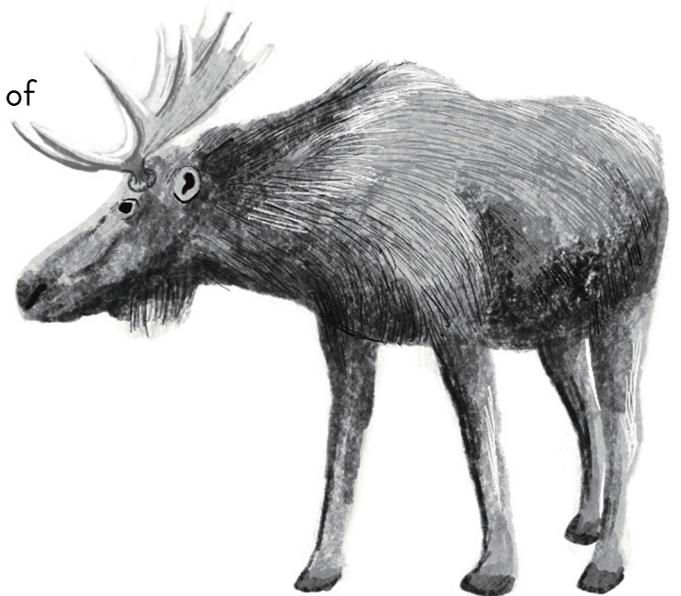
- Write the article as if Minnie has given an exclusive interview to the local newspaper reporter explaining everything that happened.
- Write a scene from Billy's point of view, any of the scenes where he's witnessed interesting events in the forest, or in the cabins will do.

Kaayii likes to watch the humans.

- Imagine he's in a tree watching them doing something he would think unusual, like playing football, or rounders, or a barbecue with lots of people. Write a short story about what and who he's watching. Do the humans notice him? Does he join in with their activity?

Some people believe Sasquatches can communicate with trees.

- Imagine a conversation between a Sasquatch and a very old tree. Perhaps it's a tree that has a good view of the lake and the cabins, perhaps it's at the very top of the mountain. Imagine how that tree might feel about all the different animals that have visited or made their home in the tree. Or the people the tree has seen and what they were doing, or the fires it survive. Write and perform a script of the conversation with a partner.



WESTERN
MOOSE

Then something flew past Minnie's head.

'What was that?' she screeched.

'What?' said Dan quickly ducking his head.

'Oh, hi crow,' said Minnie with relief. It was a sleek black crow, its feathers shining in the low shafts of evening light.

'I thought it was another pinecone!'

'Me too!' said Dan.

The crow had landed on a branch nearby and was looking at them both. It tilted its head this way and that, its beady yellow eyes still showing brightly in the looming shadows as twilight closed in, wrapping the forest in a darkening blanket. The crow flew up to a higher branch and its caw caw, echoed through the trees.

...

'The crow is a sentinel,' said Minnie.

'A what?' asked Billy.

'A sentinel. It reports back to the Bigfoots. They're friends. They cooperate. We could learn a lot from them.'

'How do you know all this, Minnie?' asked Connie.

'How do you think?'

'Oh. Right. Internet. Well, that's why they called it Howler Mountain. Used to hear howling,

yowling, screeching and yelling like you wouldn't believe. And not from wolves! A bigger louder resonating sound like a lion or an elephant. A bellowing bass growl that rolls and rises and echoes through the night.'

- Imagine you could speak 'Crow'. Write a conversation between you and the crow in Bigfoot Mountain.

- Write a poem describing the smells, the sounds, the shapes, the feelings in Kaayii's forest.

- Write a letter to an uncle or an aunt. Tell them why you would like to go to Bigfoot Mountain to stay in a cabin there. You could either tell them about the Bigfoots there or you could describe everything else, so not to scare them off the idea.

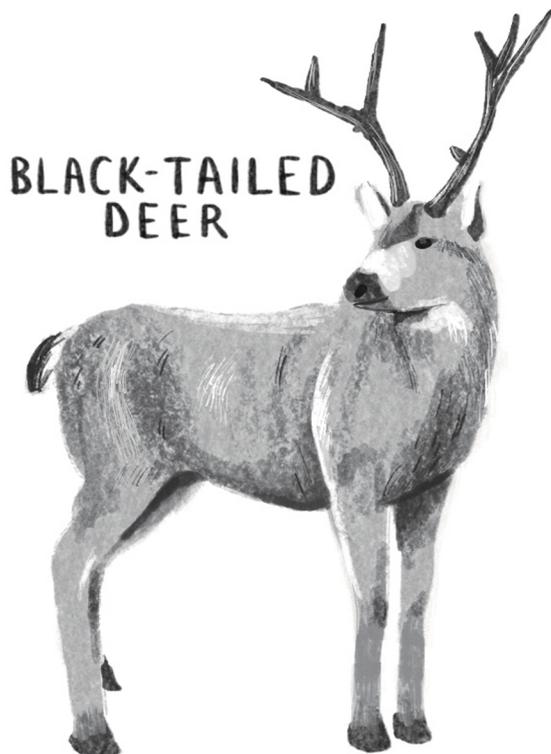
NORTH WESTERN
CROW



GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

Although it's never stated exactly where this mountain and forest are, it could almost, from the types of plants and tree (known as 'flora') and the types of animals to be found there (known as 'fauna'), be the Pacific Northwest region of Canada. If you look at a map of that area east of Vancouver Island you will see many islands and squiggly inlets that the sea sits in.

- See if you can discover some of the many uses for birch trees, including their bark, twigs, buds and leaves.
- See if you can discover some of the many uses for willow trees.
- Research the Pacific Northwest region of Canada, and create a fact file about the flora and fauna that live there, as well as any geographical features.



ART & DESIGN



- Illustrate your fact file from the previous task.
- Draw or paint your own Bigfoot.
- Design a T-shirt using animals, or plants or any interesting thing from the book.
- Collect twigs, leaves and any other interesting natural objects you can find in your garden, a park, or in your school's grounds. Use what you have collected to create an artwork inspired by Bigfoot Mountain – of the landscape, one of the characters, or perhaps a bigfoot tree structure.
- Study the maps in the front and back of Bigfoot Mountain. Create your own map, of a real or imagined place, that you could then use as a setting for a story. What legendary creature (one that already exists, or one you have invented) would live in the world of your map?
- Design a poster to warn about the dangers of forest fires, and how to avoid starting one.

