

# Part Two

## Early February





It was a grey, bleak February, and Lob spent much of the time sleeping in the cottage eaves. With no fire to lie by, he'd gone shrunken and small, weakened by winter and cold weather.

Usually, at this time of year, on the days when it wasn't quite so cold, he'd

Have a read of this section at the beginning of this chapter again.

look after the cabbages and the purple-sprouting broccoli. He'd turn over the leaf mould, and make sure Will's tools and pots were clean and ready. But now there were no tools. They'd been taken away when the cottage was emptied.

Lob waited.

After a while, a digger arrived, and moved with dinosaur slowness into Will's vegetable beds. Into *Lob's* vegetable beds. Lob watched, outraged.

Roaring yellow monster, slow moving, quick turning. Treads crush life. Head rears high, giant teeth gape. Fangs gouge, wrench, tear.

Stems and roots and leaves <sup>21</sup>mashed  
and mangled in monster jaws.



Run at it, shout, batter with  
fists.

Monster trundles on. Clumsy  
blind brute.

At last the digger trundled off down  
the road, scattering strips of pressed  
mud.

Lob stood looking at the devasta-  
tion. If he'd been given to despair, he  
would have despaired now. Instead he  
began tidying as best he could, collect-  
ing bits of twig and root, heaping them  
ready to be burned.

Next day the executioners arrived, three of them. One slapped his hand against the mark on the tree's trunk, then rubbed the chalk off his palm. Another carried a heavy saw with crocodile teeth. Lob flung himself at them, waved his arms, shouted and stamped, but no one noticed.

The saw whined and screamed. Sharp teeth bit into bark. The shock juddered deep into the ground.

The tree tried to stand tall, but was wounded too badly. Soon it surrendered. Groans shuddered through every twig. Its leaves twitched and

writhed, its branches sagged. The core of its trunk<sup>22</sup> screeched in agony.

At last the butchers had finished their work. They drank coffee from their flasks; they laughed and joked together.



In this part of the text, the author uses a technique called 'personification'. This means they make something that isn't human, sound like a person.

In the table below, or in your own book, can you fill in as many examples as you can find where the author has described the tree or the machinery in a human way. I have given some examples to help you.

Machinery	Tree
Head rears high Teeth gape (hang open)	The tree tried to stand tall Soon it surrendered (gave up)

Thinking about the table you have just completed, finish the sentence below with 2 – 3 reasons.

I think the author does this because .... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





1



2

Which of these images of the green man do you think shows best Lob's emotions as he watches the scene unfold?  
Describe which you think it is and why. What makes him feel like this?



3



4

Watch the 'deforestation' video. Although this is not in the UK, I thought this was such an amazing video showing what has happened forests across the world.

Seeing the sadness Lob felt about the ash tree being chopped down, I thought we would have a quick look at a project that many British people have been fighting against for the last few years. We will investigate it and then you will write a newspaper report on it!

### The Plan!

The government have wanted to build a high-speed railway for many years now to connect the major cities of the UK. It will be called the HS2.

There are many good things about having such speedy trains, but the thing that has been worrying a lot of people about this plan is that lots of trees will need to be cut down when the tracks and stations are built.



The grey lines are the major roads of the UK and the coloured lines are the train lines that are to be built.

### Your Task

Have a look at the webpages I have uploaded and research this project.

There are a few different things talked about in these articles, but I want you to concentrate on the effect the building work will have on the countryside.

Choose three main points and have a reason why those points are important.