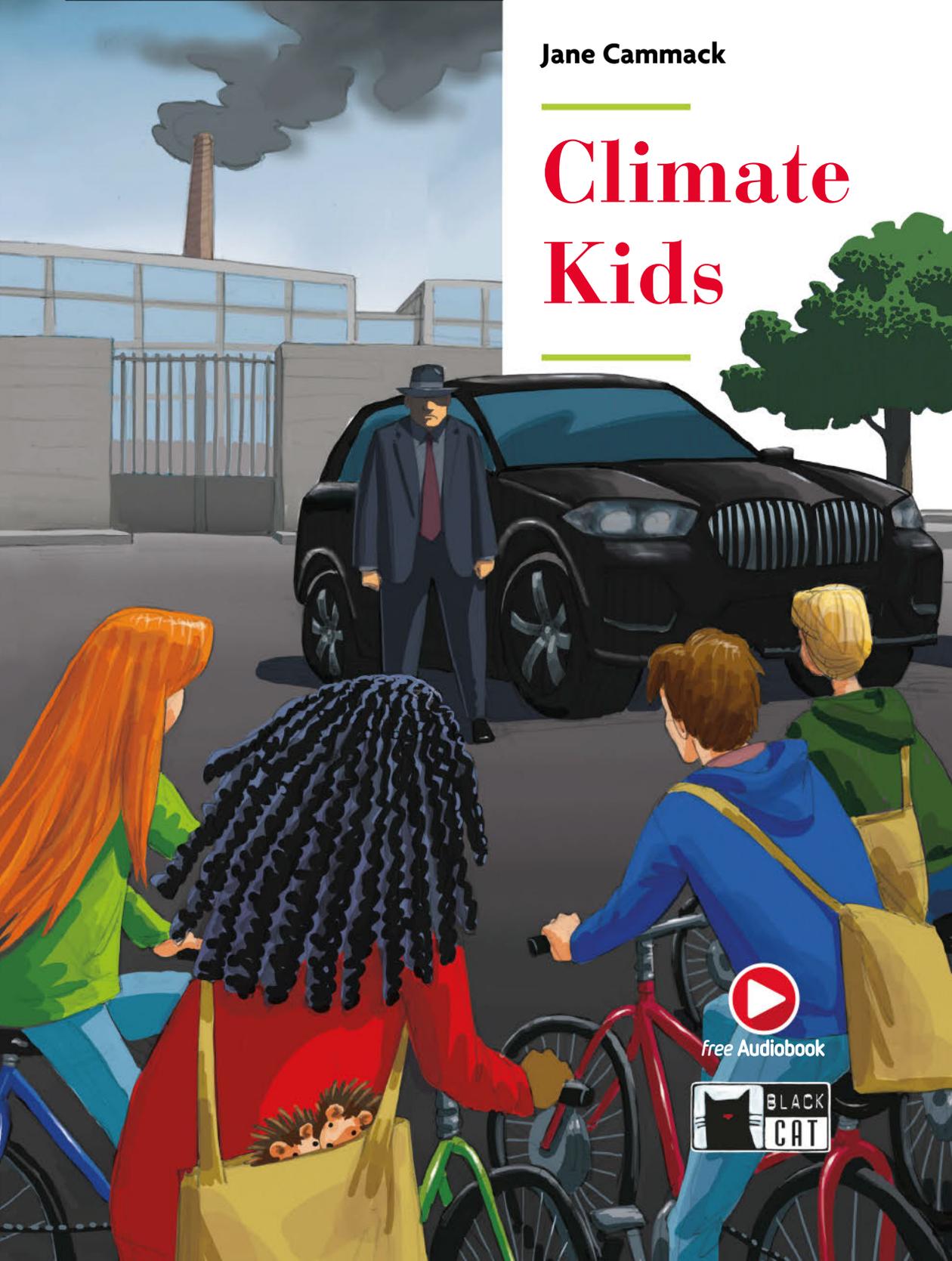


Jane Cammack

Climate Kids



Free Audiobook



Jane Cammack

Climate Kids



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Text and activities by
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Member of CISQ Federation



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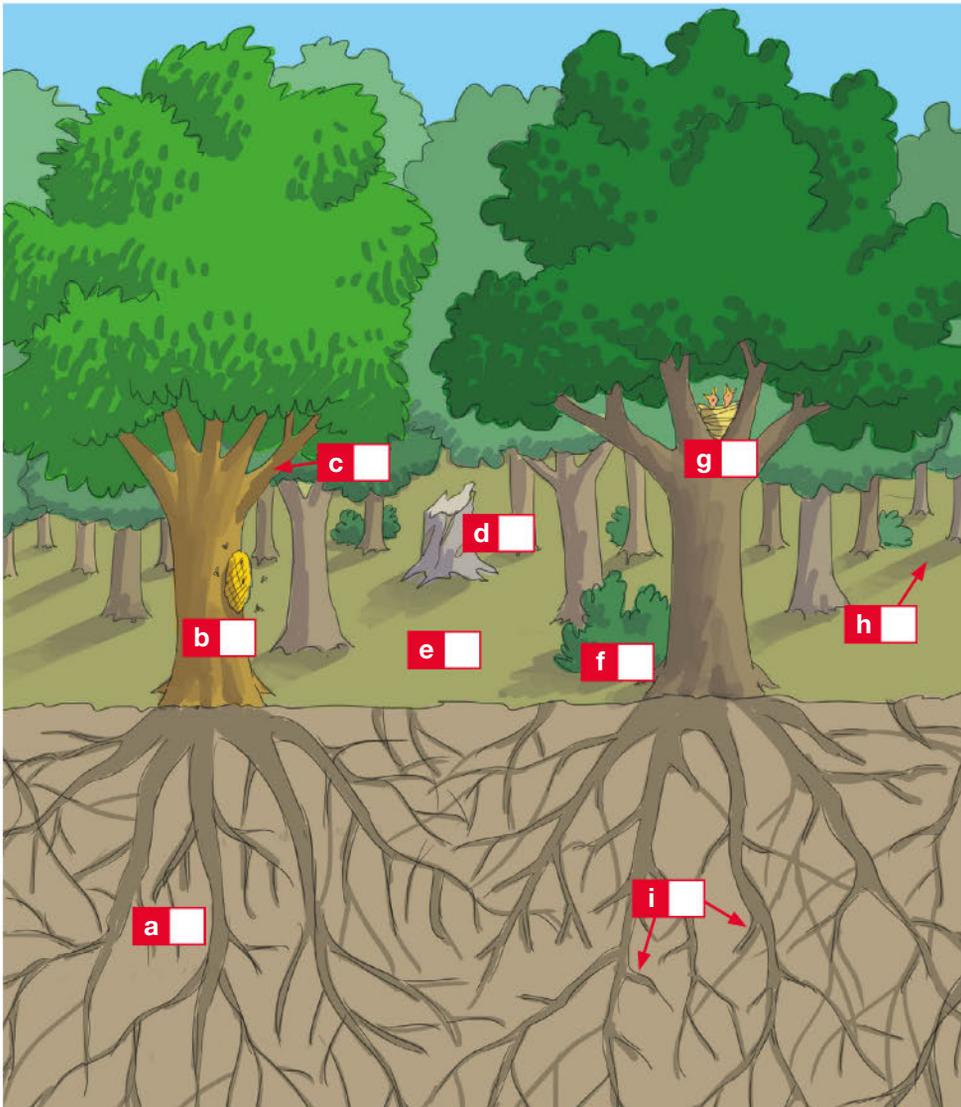
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BEFORE YOU READ

1. The underground network of trees. Look at the picture and put the correct words (1-9) in the boxes (a-i). Use a dictionary if necessary.

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------|------------|
| 1. underground network | 4. disease | 7. nest |
| 2. roots | 5. shadow | 8. bush |
| 3. soil | 6. branch | 9. beehive |



BEFORE YOU READ

2. Match the words (1-10) with the correct meaning (a-j).

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> environment | a the thin protective part of the Earth's atmosphere |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> global warming | b living without help from others |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> pollution | c animals, plants and insects that live in natural conditions |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> recycling | d the air, water and land where people, animals and plants live |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> the ozone layer | e an increase in the temperature of the Earth |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> sample | f the result of dangerous products in the environment |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> wildlife | g chemicals no longer needed |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> fossil fuels | h making waste material into something new |
| 9. <input type="checkbox"/> toxic waste | i a small amount of something, e.g. soil or water |
| 10. <input type="checkbox"/> self-sufficient | j natural fuels like coal and gas |

3. Choose the right word from Exercise 2 to complete these sentences.

1. When smoke goes into the atmosphere it causes
2. When people grow their own food they are
3. The Earth is getting warmer and this is called
4. People collect plastic and paper every week for
5. Unused chemicals can create

4. Match the verb with the correct picture.

sparkle • hum • squeak • whistle





The Supertrees of Singapore

Gardens by the Bay

'Let's create a city in a garden,' said the government of Singapore. In 2006, the city council decided to develop a park near the main business district. It is called 'Gardens by the Bay' and it consists of three areas: Bay South Garden, Bay East Garden and Bay Central Garden. Visitors and eco-tourists love visiting the Bay South Garden, where there is a man-made mechanical forest with eighteen Supertrees.



track 02

The giant trees stand twenty-five to fifty metres high and are a mix of art, nature and technology. The concrete trees have a steel frame¹ and a living skin of plants that cover each trunk.² There are more than two hundred species of climbing, flowering plants, and the leaves on the trees have different colours – browns, reds and oranges. The trees have solar panels, which change sunlight into electricity and light the trees every evening. The Supertrees are able to change the temperature: when it's hot they take heat in and when it gets colder they produce heat. Most of the trees collect rainwater and provide oxygen for two conservatories nearby – the Cloud Forest and the Flower Dome. A conservatory is a very large glass house. Inside the conservatories, there are more than 250,000 plants from nearly every continent. Bridges called 'Skyways' are twenty-two

1. **steel frame** : metal support.

2. **trunk** :



metres above the ground and connect some of the trees. Visitors can look down at the beautiful gardens of Marina Bay.

At the top of the tallest Supertree there is a restaurant and rooftop bar. There are sofas and tables so it's a good place to watch the light show every evening. When day turns to night, this enchanted forest comes alive with lights and music.

Ecological trees

The British landscape-architecture company Grant Associates designed the Supertrees and the conservatories. They were the winners of an international design competition. Andrew Grant's vision for the Bay South Garden came when he visited his brother in Australia. He went to the Valley of the Giants and saw two very tall species of tree in the Australian forests. They are called Karri and Tingle trees and there were walkways built between them. Andrew Grant combined the idea of the walkways with an enchanted forest he saw in the 1997 fantasy film *Princess Mononoke* by the Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki. Some people say the Supertrees look like the baobab trees in Madagascar with their thick trunks and thin branches. Visitors love the mix of realism, technology and fantasy.

In the story you are going to read, there are Supertrees in a town in England, just like the ones in Singapore.

COMPREHENSION CHECK

1. Match the first part of the sentence (1-8) to the second part (a-h) to make a complete sentence.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> The Singapore government created a city | a by the Valley of the Giants. |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Eighteen Supertrees are in | b comes alive with lights and music. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> A living skin of plants | c in a garden. |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Solar panels change | d realism, technology and fantasy. |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> The Supertrees | e a man-made mechanical forest. |
| 6. <input type="checkbox"/> The architect was inspired | f covers each trunk. |
| 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Visitors love the Supertrees' | g collect rainwater. |
| 8. <input type="checkbox"/> At night the enchanted forest | h sunlight into electricity. |

THE CHARACTERS

Lyndon Lockhart

Rowan and Eve

Clinton Small

Tobias Devell

Molly's mum

Charlie

Molly

the hoglets





CHAPTER 1

Supertrees



Deep in the leaf-green¹ countryside is a small town called Kirby. Nothing unusual ever happens there, so the residents² are surprised when they wake up one morning and find solar-powered Supertrees in the middle of the park. These giant trees stand fifty metres high and breathe life into the residents



track 03

of Kirby. Flowers and plants grow around the steel trees and along the branches. Even the birds build nests amongst the metal leaves. The Supertrees collect rainwater, change sunlight into energy and produce fresh clean air for the town. Families and friends like to walk on the narrow bridges which connect the trees. They enjoy the view of the sky and the beautiful gardens below.

After a few days everything changes.

‘The air tastes sweeter,’ says Bill, the policeman.

‘We can become the first *green* town in our country,’ says Jed from the music shop.

‘Kirby can be an example to everyone,’ says Kate, the primary school

1. **leaf-green** : a bright green colour.

2. **residents** : a group of people who live in a place.



CHAPTER 1

teacher. 'Our giant trees are important. Other towns can become green like us.'

The beautiful Supertrees sparkle in the middle of the park, and suddenly the houses and flats and shops look old and black and smoky. The members of the town council³ have a meeting.

'Our Supertrees are helping to save the planet. They take in carbon dioxide⁴ and produce oxygen, but we need to do more,' says the Mayor, the leader of the council. 'We must change our buildings. They should be eco-friendly, so they are good for the environment. Solar power can provide energy for our homes.'

'Let's make our houses and flats more eco-friendly,' says one man.

'If we drive electric cars,' says another, 'we can eliminate petrol vehicles from our town.'

'We can build safe cycle paths⁵ and have water taxis on the river,' says a woman.

3. town council : local government.

4. carbon dioxide (CO₂) : this is produced when carbon is burned or people and animals breath out.

5. cycle path : a path that is only for bicycles.





The leader of the council bangs her hand on the desk. 'Approved.'
'An excellent decision,' says everyone.

And so work begins.

The architects design houses made from thousands of recycled glass bottles. The coloured glass sparkles in the sunshine. Other houses have *living walls* with plants and flowers growing between the bricks. There are trees on every terrace and balcony. The houses have solar roofs and small windmills in the gardens which produce energy.

The residents of Kirby like their new self-sufficient lives. Many families keep chickens in the gardens and grow their own vegetables. Supporting local business and jobs is important. Residents buy food from farm shops and clothes from boutiques in town. They don't order things on the Internet anymore. The people in Kirby are happy with their new eco-friendly town.

It takes time, but finally the energy efficient houses and the cycle paths are ready. The gardens are full of lettuces, tomatoes and strawberries. Everything looks wonderful, but there is still one problem.

The town of Lew stands on the other side of the river Ravenbeck. Many years ago Kirby-Lew was one place, but today Kirby and Lew are two





separate towns with very different problems. The residents of Lew are not interested in solar power or saving the planet. The air in their town is full of smog⁶ and bad smells drift⁷ across the river to the town of Kirby.

‘Global warming,’ one of them says. ‘What nonsense.⁸ Money is the only thing that matters.’⁹

‘Scientists say that the planet is getting warmer, but we still have snow and ice in winter,’ says another.

Lew has only one small park and not many trees. There are no cycle paths or streets full of flowers, and grey smog hangs in a cloud over the town. A bridge crosses the river Ravenbeck linking Kirby to the town of Lew. Children who go to school in Kirby sigh¹⁰ when they are walking home. Local people call it the ‘Bridge of Sighs’.

It is spring and a dancing wind from the west arrives. It brings trouble. A large truck stops at a factory¹¹ on the edge of the river in the town of Lew and a man gets out. He has an angry red face and dark eyes, and his name is Tobias Devell. His father Rufus Devell died six months ago and the factory is now his son’s. Rufus Devell was an artist and wasn’t interested in business. The factory was closed for years. Now that his

6. **smog** : air full of pollution.

7. **drift** : move slowly with no control.

8. **nonsense** : a silly or stupid idea.

9. **matters** : is important.

10. **sigh** : make a sad sound with your breath.

11. **factory** : a place where machines make things.



son is in charge¹² everything is going to change. People need jobs in this town, but he is not an easy man. He expects employees¹³ to work very hard for very little money. As Tobias Devell walks round the building, mosquitos fly around his head. He waves his hat at the mosquitos and stares¹⁴ at the factory. Excellent, he thinks. He can use water from the river to work the machinery and the factory can stay open day and night. The machines are old and very noisy, but he doesn't care about¹⁵ that. He only cares about money.

The people of Kirby are worried when the factory opens and they don't know what to do. They are sad because they can't hear the birds sing anymore. They write letters to the new owner and tell him about the pollution and the smoke. When the letters arrive, Tobias Devell reads them and throws them in the bin. He gives a low laugh.

12. **in charge** : in control.

13. **employees** : workers.

14. **stare** : look at something for a long time.

15. **care about** : (here) think something is important.



THINK!

Decision making

Kirby town council makes a decision to become the first 'green' town in the country.

1. What proposals could you make to the council for your town to become more 'green'?
2. How could your home become more 'green'? What changes could you and your family make?
3. Could there be more cycle paths in your town? Where?
4. In groups, create a new plan of your town, reducing traffic and eliminating pollution.

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