The Great Kapok Tree by Lynn Cherry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1Teb-_jTyI>

1. Answer these questions in your book. Use full sentences e.g. The largest rainforest in the world is in…

Can you write down one fact about the rainforests?

Where are they? How many countries can you list that have rainforests?

Can you name three animals that live there?

Where is the largest rainforest in the world?

Play the video and pause when you see the map (about 10 seconds). Look at the map and write down what you notice about where the rainforests (green) are.

Why do you think Lynn Cherry chose to write a story about the rainforests?

Watch the video up to 6 minutes 40 seconds. You will not watch any more today. Why do you think the author chose to have part of it narrated and part direct speech from the animals? What effect does this have?

2. Yesterday we talked about how the book is part narration/part speech. What do you notice about the reporting clauses? Give three examples of verbs that have been used instead of said. I notice that the reporting clause…Three examples of verbs you can use for said are…

How do these verbs help as you read the parts of the animals? These verbs help…

In the book, it is just the animals that do the talking to convince the man to stop chopping the tree down. What might the man’s work mate/boss/company say? Write down at least three pieces of speech and make sure you set it out using the correct punctuation. “If you don’t chop it down, we won’t have the paper we need for schools and businesses,” explained his friend. Aim to use a different word to said each time.

3. Watch the video again (NO MORE THAN 6 MINUTES 40 SECONDS) and as you do, focus on the description of the rainforest and list as many descriptive words/phrases as you can that Lynn Cherry uses. You can watch as many times as you like as well as pause the video.

What words do we use to describe something? We use…to describe things. List five of your own to describe the rainforest.

What words describe verbs? …describe verbs.

Phrases that describe when, where and how something happens are called adverbials e.g. At the break of dawn, Deep in the rainforest, With a big swing of his axe…

Rewrite the sentences below and improve them with adjectives, adverbs/adverbials.

Many birds live in the emergent layer of the rainforest.

The trees are surrounded by flowers and plants.

Animals prowl through the understory.

A variety of creatures inhabit the canopy.

Butterflies are found everywhere.

4. Watch the video again up to the point where it says, ‘Suddenly he stopped. He turned and looked at the animals and the child.’ (6 MINUTES 50 SECONDS).

What do you think the man will do? Draw up a table and list the animals’ arguments in one column and the reasons the humans, that don’t live in the forest, might give the man in the other column.

5. Write a persuasive letter. Choose a side and write to the man to persuade him to either cut the tree down or leave it alone. Use the resources on our school website to help you set out a letter and to help you be as convincing as possible.

Now watch the end of the story.