

Claws

John Landon

A Before Reading

- 1 Student's own answer. Details which should be included in the drawing: large black eyes, long beak like a bird but no wings, huge red claws on its hands and feet, nine feet tall, touching the ceiling of a room.
- 2 a), b) and c) student's own answers. Possible answers: Larry decided to find the creature, the creature lives in the snow, people are killed during the adventure.

B While Reading

- 3 Facts about Larry:
He is a cook, he studied cookery at college for five years, he had jobs as a cook in a hotel/ in a restaurant/ in a school kitchen/ in a hospital kitchen, he did not like any of these jobs, he loves climbing, every weekend he goes to the mountains, he is 26 years old, he has short, dark hair and a beard, he likes to wear jeans and sweaters, he shares a flat with Jack, a college friend, he does not like libraries, he does not like going to London, he does not like wearing a suit.
Facts about Professor Lugner:
He works at the Museum of Natural Science in London, he is a small man, he is about 40 years old, he believes he will find the Toruk, he has thin, grey hair and a small grey moustache, he has written many books about the Toruk, he has been on other expeditions to Afghanistan to look for the Toruk.
- 4 Student's own answer. Possible answers:
page 23: But when he saw Abdul, the Professor became angry./ 'Why have you brought this man?' he asked Greg./ 'He says he's a guide,' Greg answered./ 'He cannot come with us this time,' the Professor shouted./ 'But we must have a guide who will come with us.'
page 26: Although it was early, the market-place in Khalid was full of people./ The porters put the heavy equipment on their backs./ They were ready to leave./ As the expedition left the village, the people of Khalid stood quietly.
- 5 Student's own answer. Things to think about for the conversation:
Greg, Abdul and Larry have seen the Professor making the claw marks of the Toruk. Abdul has said that the Professor has already killed five men – Greg and Larry need to ask Abdul how he knows. They need to ask each other what they are going to do now they know that the Professor is dangerous and is pretending that the Toruk is near. Do they go back to Khalid for help from the police? Do they tell the rest of the expedition members? Do they still wonder if there is a real Toruk? Do they carry on with the expedition? Do they 'arrest' the Professor?

C After Reading

- 6 Student's own answer. Students need to remember that the picture and the information about the book on the back cover have to make someone want to read the book.
- 7 Student's own answer. Students can use the details about Larry from Question 3 for a reporter to introduce the newspaper story. The headline: 'Larry Bakewell tells his amazing story' shows that the rest of the story could be an interview with Larry about what happened. Only the main details need to be told.
- 8 Student's own answer. The diary could start when Larry and Greg are already in the mountains and cover them chasing the Toruk, seeing it, photographing it, being attacked by it or perhaps getting close to it but finally not seeing it - so that it is still a mystery.
- 9 a), b) or c) Student's own answer. Students could use reference material about one of the famous creatures which may or may not exist, e.g. the Abominable Snowman or the Loch Ness Monster, or they could use their imagination.