

## Birnam Wood by Eleanor Catton

### Vocabulary

#### 1) Unscramble the words to complete the sentences.

a. A rutted \_\_\_\_\_ (**tkcar**) showed the owner's habitual route around the property and as he sat in the idling car with his hand on the \_\_\_\_\_ (**nigtioon**).

b. Tony reversed out of his parking \_\_\_\_\_ (**sotp**), jammed the \_\_\_\_\_ (**gkecstrai**) into first, and \_\_\_\_\_ (**ordve waya**), hunching unnaturally low over the \_\_\_\_\_ (**tserenig hwele**) and praying that she would not look over and recognise the receding \_\_\_\_\_ (**ilcnece alpte**) of his father's car.

c. ... a fresh and vibrant sketch depicting elegant, sun-drenched homes, shining \_\_\_\_\_ (**VSUs**) at the \_\_\_\_\_ (**erkbised**).

d. Mira turned and ran, not looking back, not slowing, not even when she reached the shelterbelt, the gate, the gravelled service road, the patch of scrub where she had stashed her bike, which she dragged to the \_\_\_\_\_ (**iwhgyha**), bashing her shin on the \_\_\_\_\_ (**rcossarb**) in her haste to get astride it, and \_\_\_\_\_ (**epadleld**) furiously down the hill, past the renovated \_\_\_\_\_ (**dirveawy**), along the lakeshore, into town, and past the solar-powered signs that warned the pass ahead was closed. By the time she reached the campsite and \_\_\_\_\_ (**ksidedd**) to a \_\_\_\_\_ (**lhta**) beside the van, she was drenched in sweat, her \_\_\_\_\_ (**pnediwip**) ragged, her legs trembling so violently that she could hardly stand. Still coursing with adrenaline, she clambered off the bike and let it fall away from her, the \_\_\_\_\_ (**rofnt hwele**) spinning as it struck the ground.

e. She had begun to shiver. She got up and \_\_\_\_\_ (**nuoklcde**) the van (...) Then she leaned over the \_\_\_\_\_ (**sapsnegre east**) to plug her phone into the cassette converter. She suddenly felt ravenous. There was a box of snack bars in the \_\_\_\_\_ (**logve oxb**) and by the time the phone's display winked back to life, she had eaten three, and was feeling steady in herself again. She climbed into the \_\_\_\_\_ (**idrvre's etsa**), typed her pin into the phone, and waited for any messages or emails to download, but none appeared.

f. It would need only another quarter turn to start the \_\_\_\_\_ (**nigeen**). Moving discreetly, Mira released the \_\_\_\_\_ (**ahdnrbeka**) and placed her feet on the \_\_\_\_\_ (**oftorbaek**) and the \_\_\_\_\_ (**tchcul**). Her bike was in her \_\_\_\_\_ (**ilbnd tsop**), right behind the van – she would have to run it over if she reversed in a hurry – and the passenger door was still open.

g. He experienced a double realignment, a shrinking of the universe inside the \_\_\_\_\_ (**ockcipt**) that matched the dilation of the universe outside it, so that as the \_\_\_\_\_ (**iarrefat**) climbed and the air thinned and the ground fell away and seemed to flatten far beneath him.

h. She put the car \_\_\_\_\_ (**ni earg**) and drove on, \_\_\_\_\_ (**fof-raodnig**) down through the fields below the shelterbelt and cutting a wide arc to avoid the seam of limestone that formed a kind of shallow cliff above the house.