



INTO

THE

WOODS

THE BATTLE FOR TASMANIA'S FORESTS

ANNA

KRIEN

TEACHING NOTES BY LAURA GORDON

Praise for *Into the Woods*

‘Anna Krien’s intimate, urgent book pulsates with life and truth.’—Chloe Hooper

‘Anna Krien is Australia’s young, female Hunter S. Thompson.’—Amanda Lohrey

‘Closely observed and beautifully written.’—*The Monthly*

‘A beautifully wrought, deeply thoughtful on-the-ground look at the struggle over Tasmania’s forests’—*Bookseller + Publisher*

‘A highly readable book ... that comprehensively explains the causes, history and the “truths” of logging in Tasmania.’—*The Big Issue*

‘Krien has produced a riveting piece of reportage.’—*The Herald Sun*

‘[A] penetrating, insightful account of the history and current state of the decades-long battle over Tasmania’s endangered forests.’—*The Advertiser*

“Anna Krien has proven herself a willing student, a brave and balanced reporter/researcher, a gifted writer, and an exciting new voice in the tradition of female literary journalists.”—*Literary Journalism Studies*

To view footage of Anna Krien speaking about *Into the Woods* and download free teaching resources visit www.blackincbooks.com/teachers

Into the Woods: The Battle for Tasmania's Forests

By Anna Krien

When asked what first made her interested in the forest debate Anna Krien cites some “ugly” footage that was sent to her by a friend.

“The video (filmed by a forest activist hiding in a tree) shows Tasmanian logging contractors smashing a gutted car that is blocking a forest access road in the Florentine valley with sledge hammers. There are two young activists inside the car. The loggers are yelling and grabbing them through the broken glass, trying to pull them out of the car. An activist friend of mine working on the island sent me the footage and I booked a ticket within an hour of watching the video. I had intended on staying in Tasmania for five days, and was still there a month later.” – Anna Krien (September 2010)

<http://theincblot.blogspot.com.au/2010/09/anna-krien-discusses-into-woods.html>

The Author

Being a non-fiction text, the background, experience, motivation and intention of the author becomes very relevant. Anna Krien is an avid writer and an experienced journalist. She describes herself on her website as “writer of the usual suspects – journalism, essays, fiction and poetry” (annakrien.com/about). She has been awarded for her poetry, short stories and non-fiction texts. In 2010, Black Inc. published this text, which was her debut book. Black Inc. has also published the *Quarterly Essay: Us and Them, on the importance of animals*, and most recently her book, *Night Games: Sex, Power and Sport* on the culture surrounding the treatment of women in elite football codes.

Into the Woods came about after a friend emailed Krien a video of some activists who were hiding in a car in the Florentine Forest in Tasmania being viciously attacked by loggers. This incited such an urgent response that she immediately booked a ticket to travel to the island and see what was really happening down there. Her intention to write one article and stay for a few days resulted in something much more.

LEARNING ACTIVITY: [Class blog.](#)

[Set up a private blog for the class to access during the study of this text. Set a task as frequently as is suitable for students to post responses to. These teaching notes include possible activities.](#)

- ❖ Invite students to research Anna Krien and her writing. Two of the websites listed below are a good starting point for this. **BLOG:** Post a fact or quote about Anna Krien.

<http://theincblot.blogspot.com.au/2010/09/anna-krien-discusses-into-woods.html>

The Context

The fight to preserve Tasmania's wilderness, in particular the old-growth forests has been a long, turbulent battle. The passion that each side of this debate has is palpable and has led to furious protests and violent confrontations over many years. It is a complicated history and one that encompasses many individuals, the State Government and the many organisations they fund to manage the forests, and of course Gunns

Limited. On one side of the debate are the environmentalists, those who believe fervently in the protection of the forests. Within this group there are varying degrees of support and action. Some are members of the political party The Greens, others work for organisations like The Wilderness Society or Still Wild Still Threatened and others are known as “ratbags”. These are the extremists, the ones who live within the forest, offering themselves as the physical barrier between the chainsaws and logging trucks and the defenseless trees. It was two of these activists who had locked themselves inside a gutted car, preventing loggers access to the Upper Florentine, who felt the fury of the attack. It would be worth watching [this footage](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVBV7IrukJo) (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVBV7IrukJo>) with students, although it is very confronting. It is referred to frequently within the text. Rod Howells has since been charged with the assault of Miranda Gibson and Nishan Datt. It was this footage that spurred Anna Krien to travel to Tasmania and investigate. The text offers each viewpoint of the current logging scheme and the State Government’s intention to build a pulp mill as she speaks to activists, politicians, loggers, forest workers and many locals.

The only voice that is absent from the text is a representative of Gunns as they refused any contact with her. As the key stakeholder in the introduction of a pulp mill in Tasmania it is a significant absence, but one that is filled with both support and derision for this highly contentious project. As it stands at the moment, legislation has been passed allowing the Pulp Mill to be constructed, but without key funding, and with Gunns recently going into receivership, it has not yet come to be. The following sections of these Teaching Notes help to explore the complex history, relationship and desired outcomes of all involved. The timeline of the actions of Gunns and the collaboration with the State Government is complicated and can be difficult for students to access and understand.

- It would be worth having a close look at some of the details of Tasmania as a state and in terms of the logging allocation. The population, industry, landscape, climate, key historical events all need exploration. Students could research this individually in preparation for the beginning of the text study.

Summary of Parts

Prologue

Graphic personal recount of Anna staying with Geoff, another Tasmanian who has let her stay on his land. It describes the death and destruction of the Tasmanian Devils and the cruelty of some who aim for them in their cars. It is an innocent death that finally causes a release of emotion from Anna.

Ratbags

This section details the lives, philosophy, motivations and survival skills of the environmental activists known as “ratbags”. Also known as ‘ferals’, “their goals shift daily but all relate to one aim: securing protection for patches of nature, one jigsaw piece at a time” (P27). Anna lives with the ratbags in “The Pink Palace”, sharing their food they glean from dumpsters and sleeping on the floor of their house or their makeshift accommodation at the camps. They are patient with her questions, explaining their position repeatedly and addressing the contradictions posed by their opposition. Their fierce determination is unnerving. Many are on welfare, but Anna is quick to point out that she hasn’t “met anyone on the dole quite like this before, and this is probably what annoys their critics most.” (p27) Many of the activists Anna spends her time with are intelligent and educated. ‘Wazza’ is on an Honours scholarship completing his thesis for University of Tasmania and says he’s always worked hard. “It’s just that some people

don't see forest activism as working hard" (p27). This is not an average occupation and they are taking enormous risks with their safety, health and criminal record to maintain such a fervent protest. Their existence is desperate and often lonely, but their ideals remain their defining feature. This section reveals many of the tactics of the ratbags, including blockades, tree-sits, locking on, and "monkey-wrenching". This direct action targets the workers, those employed by the sawmills and logging companies to complete work that is entirely legal under State Government legislation. Some protesters, like Miranda Gibson agree; "we know we are targeting the wrong people. It's Gunns and Forestry Tasmania who should be seeing us everyday, but if we weren't here, all this –' she stretches out her arm at the green forest, the tinkering of birds emanating from within, 'would be gone." (p70) And this is what keeps them going.

- Select one of the activists that are introduced in this section. Imagine you have a chance to meet them and interview them. Write 10 questions you would ask them.
- Access the Still Wild Still Threatened website below. Scroll through some of the photos and stories they have attached. Write a descriptive piece of the camp they have created. Draw on Anna's experience that she recalls in the text as well as this supporting information. (<http://www.stillwildstillthreatened.org/>)
- Rod Howells has been charged with the attack on Miranda and Nish, Write the script he would read from when defending himself in court.
- Create a detailed labeled diagram of a 'ratbag'. Include the common characteristics as gleaned from Anna's observation and interaction with some of these people.
- BLOG: Make a list of the tactics the ratbags use to protest. Rank them in order from most justifiable to least. Explain your order on the blog .

Loggers

This section begins with Anna entering a bar filled with loggers and others who work the forest in a tiny town. She ventures to ask about their experience, their opinion and tries to reassure them that she isn't a "greenie". Her observations all sit alongside the statistics and information that these greenies have presented her with, so she is somewhat unconvincing. She hears stories of their love for their work, and more overwhelmingly, the hate they have for their opposition. One of the young loggers pulls out his phone to show Anna some footage of their work in the forest, and goes on to show her the video they "reckon she would have already seen" (P80), the one of the car being smashed with Miranda and Nish hiding inside. Anna meets with Prue Barratt, one of the original blockaders of the Upper Florentine, who now protests in a different way in her hometown of Maydena. The men in the bar ask Anna; "whose side are you on?" and this section of the text sees her grapple further with this core question. The men in the bar want Anna to promise them they wont be portrayed in the same way as other media has presented them in the past. She invites them to tell their story, and attempts to in this section but later comments that she will "betray these men and the ratbags too, not because (she's) choosing, but because loyalties run deep here" (P93). This is a section of contradictions. The statistics and justifications of the activists are all turned inside out by the timber industry. Everyone Anna turns to can explain why these men's jobs should be protected, or how far the industry has come, or how flawed the arguments of the conservationists are. She meets Kevin Perkins, one of Australia's top wood craftsmen, Barry Chipman, the Tasmanian spokesman for Timber Communities Australia and Terry Rousell who shows Anna the impact of the chemical spraying now occurring. Perhaps the best summary of this section is her quote; "the forest debate is a minefield. You need a bullshit detector to pick your way across it. (P149).

- **BLOG:** The bumper sticker is referred to frequently in this section. Ask students to contribute a bumper sticker from each side in the debate. There may even be a prize for the best one.
- Page 146 has Barry Chipman's description of a 300-year-old tree. Read it aloud and invite students to write out this description Barry might give to a group of school students. Then write a letter in response to Chipman, they may offer any viewpoint and employ any tone.
- Anna says "How can so many people all be looking at the same thing and see it so differently?" (P146). Create a class list of the varying viewpoints and the key arguments for each as established so far.

The Company

This section explores Gunns Limited and the integral role they play in the timber industry in Tasmania. The company refuses to engage with Anna in any of her requests for contact, so this is written entirely from research and conversations with Tasmanians. It details many of the tactics, agreements and activities of Gunns, including their greed, clever business dealings making them a very profitable company and their relationship with the media. Anna makes every effort to simplify the complex arrangement they have with their tax cuts and their tax paid and the various versions of truth being told by both Gunns itself and the government offering the tax breaks. There is a whole chapter on 'Gunns 20'. This was their malicious strategy to target twenty specific individuals and organisations that they claimed had impeded their work and cost them "millions of dollars" (P171). Bob Brown was among the accused and the group made a collective stand against the company. The litigation went on for many years, taking a huge toll both financially and emotionally. This action impacted many other organisations in the way they responded to Gunns and the work they were doing.

- Read page 158 to develop an understanding of the extensive influence of Gunns on the Tasmanian economy and landscape.
- Access the Gunns Limited website and take note of the language used. List all ambiguous words, words with positive connotations and those with negative connotations. Split the class in half, one half the conservationist side, the other half the timber workers. Select three students to be representatives of Gunns. Invite the rest to ask questions of their decisions and actions.
- The earlier link to the recent demise of the company would be useful to access, if students have not already done so
- **BLOG:** Add a link so that students can view the short film on where the 'Gunns 20' members are now. Share a response to this on the class blog.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lnrYZLHukdo&feature=player_embedded

Groundswell

This section opens with Paul Lennon, the previous Premier of Tasmania, laughing at Anna for her apparently misguided assumption that the activists she knew were doing it all for nothing. This highlights the sense of corruption that is evident in his government, but also the perception many people of what they believe to be "professional protestors" (p213). Anna goes on to spend time with Bill Manning, one of many individuals who attempts to change the mindset, actions and intentions of the logging industry from within. "In 2003 Manning became Tasmania's first forestry insider to allege broad scale illegal destruction of the island's forests" (p215). He became a whistleblower and

testified at a Senate inquiry on the extent of the damage that was happening. As he predicted, his world came crashing down. After a series of events his view was ridiculed after evidence of his mental illness became public knowledge. This section details individuals who work hard to stop the baiting and spraying that is happening and hurting both animals and humans. It also details the change in tact the Wilderness Society took, urging people to make sure their super funds were not supporting Gunns. This corporate action eventually took a huge toll on Gunns, their main funding and support was withdrawn and the beginning of the end had begun. This section ends with the infamous shift from the previous Premier Jim Bacon, one of Gunns primary supporters, that “they have to be stopped.”

- **BLOG:** Choose 5 people that Anna writes about in this section. Offer one adjective and a symbol for each one. Share on the blog and make one comment on someone else’s post.
- Access one of the television interviews Anna refers to on the dismissal of Bill Manning and watch with the class. These include Four Corners, Sunday or Inside Spin.

The Mill

This section details the preparation for the Pulp Mill to be constructed and running in Tasmania. Anna reveals much of the corruption in speeding up the legislation to meet the request of Gunns, removing and reinstating key people given the role of assessing how viable and environmentally sound a pulp mill would be and spending tax payer dollars on a “Pulp Mill taskforce to convince the public that the island needed such a project” (p253). It is a fascinating section on the intensity of the relationship between Gunns and key ministers in the State Government at the time, but more so how determined they were to make this Pulp Mill a reality despite so much evidence demonstrating the dangers it would pose to the tourism and wine industry, the environment and the lifestyle of Tasmanians. The chapter on Chile shows the absolute deceit and hypocrisy they were willing to engage in to get this project running.

- Make a list of every discrepancy between John Gay’s report on the pulp mill in Chile and the version Bob McMahon shared. Divide the class into three groups. Make one the Valdivia Paper Pulp Plant, one John Gay and the ministers and the other Bob McMahon and his supporters. Hot Seat each group. The groups must write four questions that they will ask the other two groups. Each group has three people representing them and must answer the questions according to their portrayal in the text.
- “It’s a perfect storm’, says Paul Oosting, head of the Wilderness Society’s Stop The Pulp Mill campaign” (p267). What does he mean by this? Create a concept map of all the factors that have effectively brought down Gunns and the immediate establishment of a Pulp Mill.

Epilogue

Anna returns to the Florentine to witness Miranda’s tree she has been living in for the past 457 days, being cut down. Anna ventures through the forest to see what has happened since she has been gone, only to find it “all gone”. She meets with Miranda in Hobart and listens as she tells Anna about agreeing to meet with a spokesman and attending the meeting only to find Rod Howells, the man who viciously assaulted her, in attendance. Anna returns to the blockade where “ a public rally has been organized by Still Wild Still Threatened and other environmental groups”. She feels the paranoia that

she is being watched and photographed grip her and instead of succumbing to it, she shrugs it off and joins in the other protestors to “surge over the invisible line and into the forest”. Anna returns to Camp Florentine to feast on a fresh catch of fish and oysters. The final image of the book is her cutting off a dreadlock and throwing it into a fire.

- Read aloud this section from 285. Write Anna’s diary entry for that day after she returned from witnessing Miranda’s tree being cut down.
- Do some research into the end of Miranda Gibson’s tree-sit. Write your own newspaper article that details the events leading up to this moment.

Afterword

The afterword updates the text on the latest developments since the First Edition was published. It is rich with names and dates and developments and can be heavy going. In brief, they key players met and finally agreed on a management plan for Tasmania’s forests, but the State Government delayed the implementation so long that it became quite meaningless. The Triabunna woodchip mill was eventually sold to two environmentalists and is now run by Alec Marr, defendant number 1 in the Gunns 20 case. Gunns has reinvented itself and as yet has not begun construction of the Pulp Mill.

Key Players

Being a non-fiction text, these are all real people represented according to Anna Krien’s perspective. The names of the each key players are accompanied with a brief description of their occupation or position in the debate and some of the key quotes they say, or that are used to describe them.

KEY PLAYER	DESCRIPTION	KEY QUOTES
Anna Krien	Author of the text. Received a copy of the footage of two activists being attacked and goes to Tasmania to investigate. Spends time with the ‘ratbags’, politicians, loggers, employers. She lives with the activists in ‘The Pink Palace’ and also at the blockades. This text is a result of her investigative work into the forest debate.	<p>“It was this footage that made me open another window on my computer and book a seat on a ferry.” (14)</p> <p>“So, whose side are you on?’ asks John, leaning back his chair, his blue eyes on me.” (81)</p> <p>“How can so many people be looking at the same thing and see it so differently?” (146)</p> <p>“I want to collect all the hi-vis vests in the world and bury them, dig them up and scream and burn them. Then collect all the polar-fleece Kathmandu vests and hiking boots and taunt, ‘Bah Bah, I’m “Tasmanian”, look at me, I can use a compass...I want to grab the ferals and tell them to shove their anarchy up their a-holes.” (153)</p>

<p>Miranda Gibson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An activist. • Member of Still Wild Still Threatened. • Engages in tree-sit lasting over 400 days in the Florentine Valley 	<p>“I’m happy for a tree to be cut down, but logging here is done in such a rushed and greedy manner. They trash everything for woodchips.” (p47) “But it’s not regrowth, it will be nothing like what is here now”. (p47) “Tasmania has the population of a country town, but we have a government.” (p150) “I didn’t realize he was bringing Rod to the meeting. I just went quiet. I couldn’t really speak. It’s like they still didn’t get how scary that was for us, like it was nothing.” (290)</p>
<p>John Gay</p>	<p>CEO of Gunns Limited. He has a very limited relationship with the media, refusing any contact with Anna Krien in her research. His relationship with the State Government over a long period of time proves very fruitful for his business resulting in tax cuts and legislation that support the extension of his logging. Eventually he is charged with insider trading, being accused that he was privy to inside information when he sold his shares months before a dramatic reduction in their value.</p>	<p>“Gunns owns four woodchip mills, along with walnut farms, vineyards, veneer mills, sawmills and plantations.” (158) “When I ask locals and state reporters if Gunns speaks to them and why its representatives wont speak to me, I get a reply that induces a sinking feeling: Oh they will. After you publish.” (158) “they seem to have a pathological sense of being taken advantage of.” (159)</p>
<p>Paul Lennon</p>	<p>Premier of Tasmania from 2004 – 2008 having replaced Jim Bacon after he was diagnosed with lung cancer. He was a significant supporter of the timber industry, citing the economic and employment benefits that came from a strong and robust logging regime. Questionable methods in approving the Pulp Mill and certainly in responding to claims that the timber industry were engaging in illegal destruction of the Tasmanian forests.</p>	<p>“Known as Big Red, Lennon is a large ginger haired man with jowls like saggy red steaks.” (183) “In a small community such as ours, you’re bound to have one of two companies dominating – we can’t just ignore them because people think it’s unethical for us to meet...We’re a small government – we have to make decisions and take responsibility for market and industry that other governments can leave for competition to battle out.” (182)</p>

<p>Bob Brown</p>	<p>The leader of The Greens political party and one of the defendants in the Gunns 20 case. Bob Brown has been an outspoken environmentalist who has tried to save much of the Tasmanian forest through his political work. Eventually gaining the balance of power in the Tasmanian parliament he was finally able to have a real say on the legislation governing the timber industry.</p>	<p>“There’s no doubt there’s something about Brown. Both a ‘greenie’ and gay, this quiet, studious man turned the island’s status quo on its head when he entered parliament.” (191) “The state Liberal leader Robin Gray, donned boxing gloves and shadowboxed down the main street of Queenstown, declaring he would fight any opposition to the dam. A week later, perhaps taking Gray’s call to arms too literally, four Queenstown men bashed Bob Brown over the head with a wheel brace.” (192)</p>
<p>Bill Manning</p>	<p>The whistleblower who eventually testified that the logging industry was engaging in a broad and illegal destruction of the Tasmanian forests. He was later diagnosed with depression and his opponents used this as a means to discredit his expertise, experience and opinion.</p>	<p>“With rough sandy hair, a surfer’s face licked by the salt and sun and thick calves, he is young at heart but somewhat battered.” (215) “In 2003 Manning became Tasmania’s first forestry insider to allege broad-scale illegal destruction of the island’s forests.” (215) “But it was a question of which came first – the mental illness and then the bullying, or the bullying and then the mental illness?” (216)</p>

- **EXPERTS:** Divide the class into groups, one for each person. Give them the description and the list of key quotes. They need to research this person within the text and add to the profile. Create a chart that includes the headings; name, description, role, key events, key quotes, symbol. The group is responsible for detailing this chart with as much information as possible. Then groups are reorganized to include one representative from each key person group. Students are now the ‘expert’ on their key player and must share the details with everyone else, and detail their chart with the expertise of the each of the other ‘experts’ on their key players.
- **HOT SEAT:** Divide the class into groups and allocate one key player for each group. They must choose a key moment in the text for their person and prepare to respond to questions from other key players. Each group must write three questions to ask the other people and prepare someone to represent themselves and respond to the other questions.

Themes and Issues

The forest debate

As this text demonstrates, logging in native forests is a complex issue. It is difficult to present each side objectively, as Anna discovered during her investigation. On one side you have the timber industry. It has employed many generations of Tasmanian families, supported the economy and helped to fund many of the developments the Island has seen. However, as machinery becomes more sophisticated and the demand for wood chips increases, the speed at which the forests are being logged has increased. Timber is now being taken from old-growth forests that were previously protected. Where sawlogs were removed for the quality they offer, now everything they surround is also being taken to turn into woodchips and sent overseas, leaving destruction in its wake. The shift to plantations has seen some of the native forest protected, but not as much as many conservationists would like and certainly not with the environmental protections in place that need to be to protect some of the oldest trees on the planet. One side argue economy and jobs, the other side defend the trees, which cannot defend themselves. It is complex and passionate and there does not seem to be a middle ground. Add the introduction of a Pulp Mill to this volatile situation and it seems everyone is at breaking point.

Political corruption

Tasmania is not unlike other states where secret deals are done over lunches and handshakes carry the agreement of millions of dollars. Anna reveals much of the underhanded activity that allows the timber industry more freedom than they possible deserve, and certainly more kickbacks and financial support than the public of Tasmania deem fair. In such a small population of 500,000 the links and relationships run thick and frequent. It seems that mates get jobs, legislation is introduced despite the recommendations of an advisory body and when the government doesn't get the feedback they seek, the key advisers are sacked and replaced with those who share a similar view. The experience of Bill Manning is indicative of the systemic corruption that the Labour Governments of Lennon and Bacon engaged in. Spending taxpayer money on a Pulp Mill taskforce, before a Pulp Mill had been allowed is symbolic of the disregard for due process. But according to these men, they are doing it for the good of the state, the health of the economy and the future of Tasmania. Many would, and did, disagree.

Activism

The core element of activism is freedom of speech. Activists pursue their right to question and challenge public policy and put themselves on the line in defence of those that can't defend themselves. In this case it is trees and their form of activism is confrontational and direct. Many individuals involved in the blockades or the tree-sits belong to conservation organisations and deliberately stand in the way of the loggers trying to access the forest to do their job; log. They protest peacefully by marching, holding placards and banners and chanting slogans, and when this isn't enough they put their bodies on the line to prevent the inevitable. While many other organisations are operating through legal channels, writing letters, organizing petitions and marches, objecting to policy through letter writing, advertising and community awareness, these 'ratbags' as they come to be known are the last line of defence. They would argue they are the last chance these old-growth forests have of surviving. For the timber industry, this activism is time wasting and costly, preventing ordinary men from doing their legal and legitimate job. They work for an industry that is supported by State and Federal

Governments for the money it brings to the economy. In some cases, like the Gunns 20 example, large companies initiate litigation against these activists, claiming their actions have cost them exorbitant amounts of money and they are suing to claim lost funds. One of the interesting points Anna raises about the role of the activists is that many do this without any chance of being paid for what they deem legitimate work. The debate always seem to focus on the jobs of the loggers that will be lost if these 'greenies' get their way, but for those who are spending every waking minute defending nature, they have no choice but to access unemployment benefits. Anna highlights that it is what they spend their money on that "annoys their critics the most...Instead of material comforts, saving for a home, paying bills, buying food or going out to dinner, their money is spent on cables, D-locks, tarps, abseiling equipment, sim cards, generators tools and domain names"(p28). There are many people who share the view of these activists, but don't risk life and limb to defend the forest. It is the extreme actions of these few people that put most people offside, the feeling that even if this bit of forest they are currently protesting about is saved, they will just move on to another bit, that they are never satisfied. The activists themselves argue, that they are the only chance this forest has before it is too late.

Learning Activities

- **BLOG:** View the cartoon included in the attachments. What comment is being made here? Do you think Gunns was justified in pursuing this case?
- **BLOG:** Anna asks "Why have their rights to work and put forward new ideas been ignored, while the loss of 300-odd timber-felling jobs is treated like the sky falling in?" (p284) Explore the way activists are marginalized in this debate. Ask every student to find example in the text and create a comprehensive list.
- **Sticky note quotes:** Invite every student to find three quotes from the text, write them on separate sticky notes and hand them in. Redistribute three notes per student and create a table on the wall dividing for and against logging. Ask students to read out their quote, then place on whichever side of the table they think it should go.
- **One-minute debate:** Divide the class in half. Choose a debate topic. E.g. Loggers have a right to physically remove activists if they are preventing them from completing their job. Each student is given one minute to present one argument and rebut one from the opposition.
- **Create own propaganda:** Select either side of the issue and prepare a piece of propaganda to share with the rest of the class. It may be a bumper sticker, an organization name and slogan, an advertisement for print or screen or a physical structure.
- **Whole class improvisation:** This activity can take one lesson or be spread out over a number of lessons. Basically you are equipping students with enough information to be able to be some of the key players in this debate and engage in a role-play of one of the scenarios. Start with the issue; e.g. The Upper Florentine has been marked as the next section to log. Divide them into four working groups; Who is involved (List specific names), Materials(What is required to work and or protest), Strategy (Consider the possible scenarios and plan accordingly), Propaganda (How will they garner support). They need to include both sides. Each group comes up with the details and plan for what might happen when the trucks start to roll in. Put a list of who is involved in a hat (as

determined by that group) and draw out each one, allocating it to a student. Once roles are assigned, they can divide into the sides they are on and start putting their plans in place, creating propaganda and clarifying strategies. Then, with some direction, the improvisation begins. Students are excellent at letting this drive itself, but you may need to shift attention or add a twist, e.g. The Prime Minister has pledged support on one side, the discovery of something poisonous or endangered has been made. Just enough to work the imaginations of the students. Some personal evaluation at the end of the task becomes the assessment.

Assessment

1. Essays

- “The problem is not with Gunns. The problem is with Forestry Tasmania and the State Government.” To what extent should Gunns Limited be held accountable for the destruction of the Tasmanian forests?
- Christopher Stone, a law professor from California wrote an article titled ‘Should trees have standing?’ Discuss whether it would be appropriate for governments to entitle trees and other natural phenomenon legal rights.
- ‘The activists need to find legal ways to protest in order to be taken seriously by society and garner more support’. Discuss.
- In terms of losing their jobs, the loggers have far more to fear from machines than greenies. To what extent do you agree?
- “How can so many people be looking at the same thing and see it so differently?” (p146). Where does the conflict stem from in the debate?

2. Investigative Piece for Television

Students may choose any aspect of this debate to delve into. They may choose to present one side of the issue, or present a balanced piece. It may include interviews, footage, quotes, stories, images etc. to present some insight into the complexity of the forestry debate in Tasmania. It may only deal with one or two key players, e.g. Miranda Gibson and Rod Howells, or it may consider the role of an organization or the Government. Students need to film this piece.

3. Creative Writing

Students may choose any description, experience or story that is shared in this text and develop it into a piece of writing. It may begin with a quote from the text, it may extrapolate on one of the interviews Anna shares, or it may offer a totally new viewpoint and experience. It could take the form of a descriptive piece, a short story, a speech or letter or diary entry.

4. Write a response to this being published

There are many people who would have an opinion about this work being published. They might include Paul Lennon and John Gray who are not represented favourably or even Bob Brown, Miranda Gibson, Ula and others who would see this as an important piece of literature for their cause. Write either a

personal response to this addressed to Anna, or something more public that would be published.

5. Gunns 20

Take on the role of one of the Gunns 20 accused. Investigate the various people who Gunns sued via this website <http://www.gunns20.org/> and choose one of the individuals. Choose any method to share what this experience has been like. One of the young men involved has since passed away.

About Laura Gordon

Laura Gordon is an experienced secondary English teacher. She currently teaches years 7–12 at St Joseph’s College, Geelong, where she has taught for the past 10 years. She shares her passion for books and reading by creating engaging curriculum and learning activities for the classroom.



ANNA KRIEN is the author of *Night Games: Sex, Power and Sport*, *Into the Woods: The Battle for Tasmania's Forests* and Quarterly Essay 45, *Us and Them: On the Importance of Animals*.

Anna's work has been published in the *Monthly*, the *Age*, the *Big Issue*, *The Best Australian Essays*, *The Best Australian Stories*, *Griffith Review*, *Voiceworks*, *Going Down Swinging*, *Colors*, *Frankie* and *Dazed & Confused*.

For many years, the Tasmanian wilderness has been the site of a fierce struggle. At stake is the future of old-growth forests. Loggers and police face off with protesters deep in the forest, while savage political games are played in the courts and parliaments.

In *Into the Woods*, Anna Krien, armed with a notebook, a sleeping bag and a rusty sedan, ventures behind the battlelines to see what it is like to risk everything for a cause. She speaks to ferals and premiers, sawmillers and whistle-blowers. She investigates personalities and convictions, methods and motives. This is a book about a company that wanted its way and the resistance that eventually forced it to change.

Updated with a new afterword, *Into the Woods* is intimate, intrepid reporting by a fearless new voice, which looks at the themes of landscape and sustainability.

Recommended for middle and upper secondary
Subjects: Non-fiction, Journalism, Environment & Sustainability
ISBN: 9781863955584
RRP: \$19.95

For more information about Black Inc.'s education resources, contact Elisabeth Young at elisabeth@blackincbooks.com

www.blackincbooks.com/teachers

To order copies of *Into the Woods*, please contact United Book Distributors on +61 3 9811 2555 or orders@unitedbookdistributors.com.au or contact your local bookseller or education supplier.



For all other enquiries, please contact Black Inc.
37–39 Langridge St, Collingwood, Victoria 3066
Phone: +61 3 9486 0288 Fax +61 3 9486 0244
Email: enquiries@blackincbooks.com