

*Night-time is my time, and night-time in the forest is supposed to be a time for tree magic. People used to say elm trees uproot themselves at night and follow in the footsteps of unwary travellers. Read the passage below describing how the hobbits met up with Treebeard in **The Lord of the Rings**.*

A large knob-knuckled hand was laid on each of their shoulders and they were twisted round, gently but irresistibly; then two great arms lifted them up. They found that they were looking at a most extraordinary face. It belonged to a large Man-like, almost Troll-like, figure, at least fourteen foot high, very sturdy, with a tall head, and hardly any neck. Whether it was clad in stuff like green and grey bark, or whether that was its hide, was difficult to say. At any rate the arms, at a short distance from the trunk, were not wrinkled, but covered with a brown smooth skin. The large feet had seven toes each. The lower part of the long face was covered with a sweeping grey beard, bushy, almost twiggy at the roots, thin and mossy at the ends. But at the moment the hobbits noted little but the eyes. These deep eyes were now surveying them, slow and solemn, but very penetrating. They were brown, shot with a green light.

WHAT TO DO:

Read the description again carefully, and try to build up a picture in your mind of Treebeard. It might help you if you underline important parts of the description.

Draw a rough sketch of Treebeard in this box. You may add other features of your own but do not leave out any details from the written description. Check the passage to make sure.

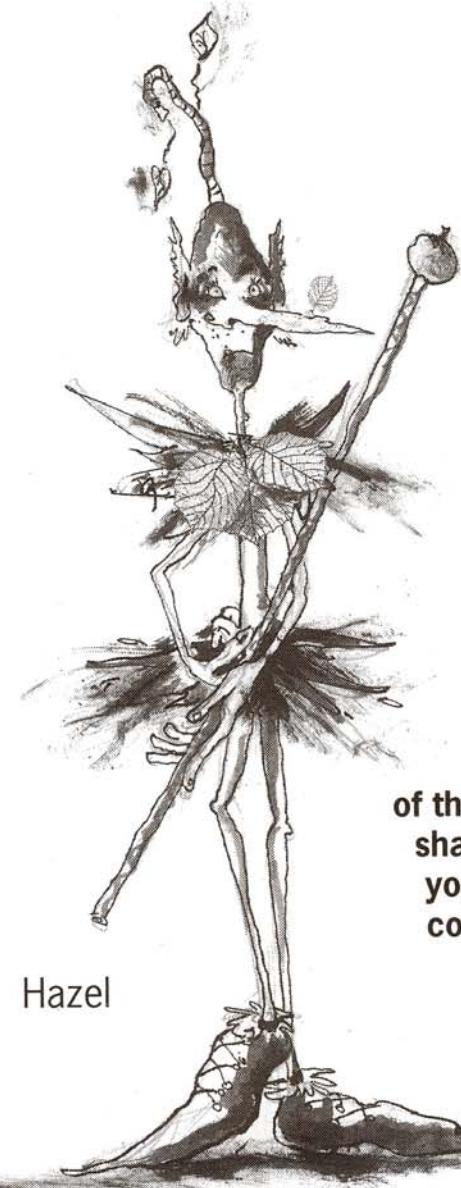
Using drawing pencils, good drawing paper and your rough sketch, draw your picture of Treebeard as carefully as you can. Talk to your teacher about using coloured pencil, where it might add details that are in the description. You should have a drawing to be proud of.

MORE TO DO:

Look in your library for "The Fellowship of the Ring" (the first part of "The Lord of the Rings" by J. R. R. Tolkien). In Chapter 6, "The Old Forest", read how Merry and Pippin are trapped by the old Grey Willow Man.



Perhaps because trees are sometimes very old, or perhaps because, grouped together in copses, woods or forests, they can create such a secret and mysterious atmosphere, many myths and legends have grown about trees. Many trees are the haunt of their own special fairy, elf or goblin.



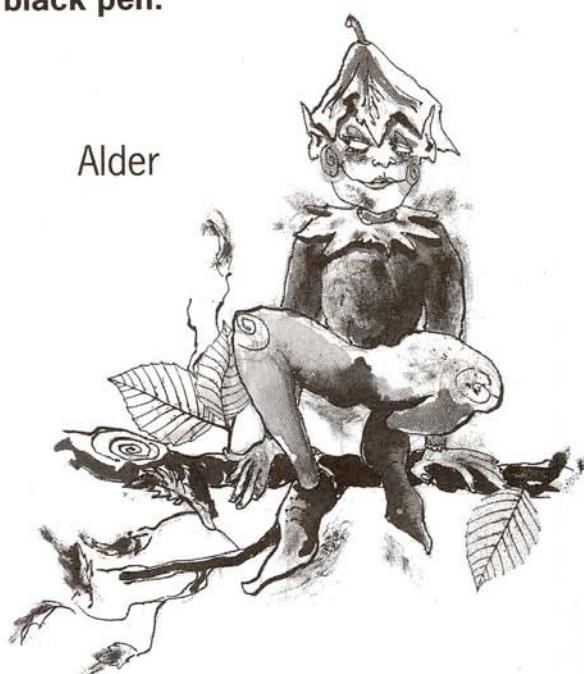
Hazel

WHAT TO DO:
Just to get your imagination working, here are some drawings of the spirits of the elder, hazel and alder trees. Look through some of your reference books on trees and decide which is your favourite tree.



Elder

Study the tree shape and the patterns of the leaves, the blossom, the fruit and the seeds. Use the shapes, patterns and colours to make up a tree spirit for your favourite tree. Try painting your creature in water colour. When the paint is dry, pick out the detail in fine black pen.



Alder

MORE TO DO:

Rowan, hawthorn and hazel branches were used, with Wild Magic, to make the Greenwitch in Chapter 3 of Susan Cooper's book of that name. Read the description of this mysterious ritual and, with a small work group, use modelling wire, brown tissue and a variety of green material to make your own Greenwitch. You will need to use your tree reference books to get the correct leaf shapes etc.