

Highland Summer



Written by Elizabeth Charman

Illustrated by Jessica Hunt

Green words

Practises ir, wh

first

girl

twirls

thirst

birthday

which

bird

Kirstin

when

chirps

skirt

whirl

birch

swirls

whirr

fir

firm

Red words

Previous red word

after*

New red words

any

could

many

who

*This word may be tricky depending on regional accent.



At the end of summer, the Queen has a holiday at Balmoral in north-east Scotland.



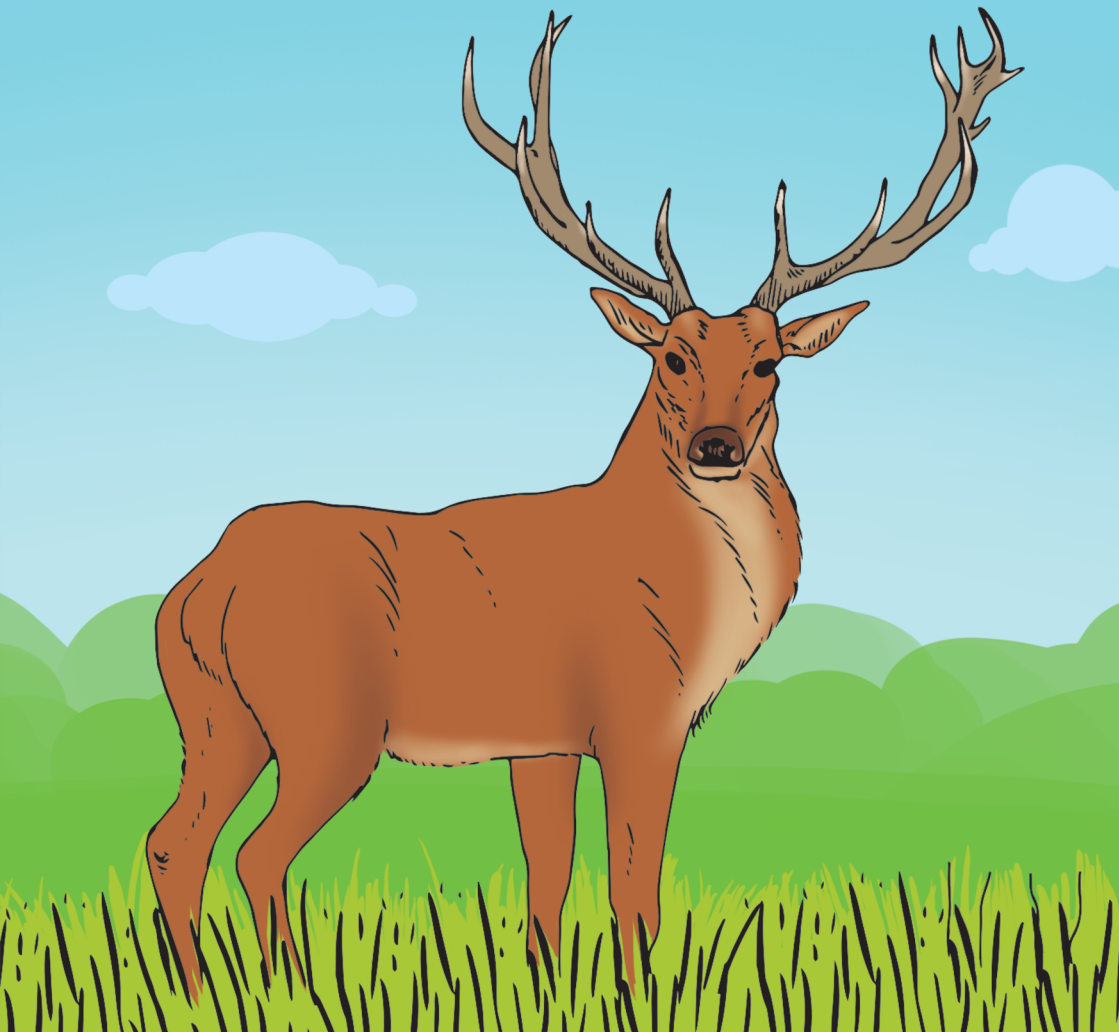
It is a big, grand house with towers and gardens. It stands on the banks of the river Dee. Before and after the Queen's holiday, you can visit too.



At first you might not see any wild animals in the woods. But then, if you are still, a red squirrel might peep out.



A stoat could dart across the track.
You might spot a plump rabbit, or
a mouse!



A bigger wild animal at Balmoral is the stag with his antlers. Until dusk, he roams the hills. Then he comes to the river to quench his thirst.



In the woods you might see many birds. You could hear the chirps of a robin.



A hunting bird, a kestrel, hovers up high. Look out, mouse!



A highland bird which lives on the hills is the grouse.

At night, you might see an owl float by in the night air.



Balmoral's woods have beech, birch, ash and oak trees. And more fir trees than you can count!



In the next town along the Dee,
there is a girl who gets a kilt for
her birthday. This is Kirstin.

Her kilt is a wool skirt which swirls
and swings when she turns. She
points her neat, light feet in exact
patterns, so firm and quick it's a
whirl!



Soon, the Queen travels back south to do her public jobs.

In Balmoral, the flowers still bloom. Birds whirr by looking for food. The birch and fir trees sigh in the wind.



And a girl leaps and twirls.
Leaps and twirls.

Questions

Can you answer these questions about the book?

1. Where is Balmoral?
2. Who visits Balmoral at the end of summer?
3. Which bird might you see hunting?
4. Which sorts of tree might you see at Balmoral?
5. Is Kirsten good at twirling?
6. Do you think Balmoral is a good spot to visit?

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Letters and Sounds

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Let's explore the Highlands in summer!



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