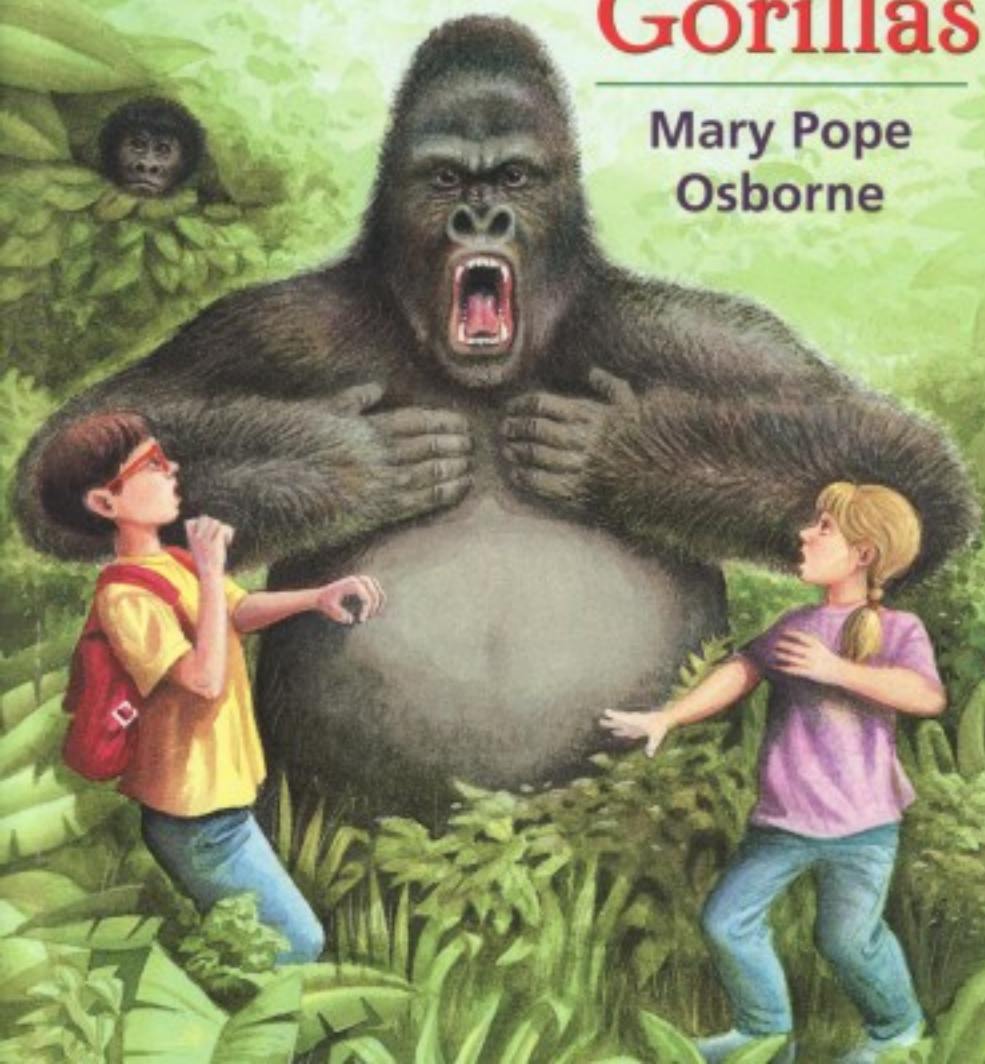


MAGIC  TREE HOUSE™ #26

Good Morning, Gorillas

Mary Pope
Osborne



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Dark and Rainy

Tap-tap-tap.

Jack sat up in bed. Rain tapped against his window. His clock said 5 A.M. It was still dark outside.

Annie peeked into his room.

"Are you awake?" she whispered.

"Yep," said Jack.

"Ready to find some special magic?" she asked.

"Maybe we should wait," said Jack. "It's so dark and rainy."

"No waiting," said Annie. "I'll get an umbrella. You bring a flashlight. Meet you downstairs."

"Okay, okay," said Jack.

He jumped out of bed. He pulled on his clothes and put on a jacket. Then he grabbed his backpack and flashlight.

Jack slipped downstairs and out the front door. Annie stood on the porch in jeans and a T-shirt. The air was chilly and breezy.

"Don't you need a sweater or something?" said Jack.

"I'm okay," she said. "Let's go."

Annie raised the umbrella. Jack turned on the flashlight. They followed a circle of rainy light down their street into the woods.

They headed through the Frog Creek woods. The flashlight lit up the trees—the

wet leaves and dark branches. Then it shined on a dangling rope ladder.

Jack raised the flashlight beam.

"There it is," he said.

A circle of light lit the magic tree house.

"Morgan's not there," said Annie. "I can tell."

"Maybe she left us a message," said Jack.

Jack grabbed the rope ladder and started up. Annie put the umbrella down and followed. When they climbed inside, Jack shined the flashlight around the tree house.

Morgan le Fay wasn't there. But the scrolls from their trip to old England were.

"Here's proof we found a special magic yesterday," she said.

"Yeah," said Jack, smiling. "*Theater* magic." He had great memories of acting in a play by their friend William Shakespeare.



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or giant monsters?**

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