I am Bigleaf Maple

I like to live in forests and meadows.
I can grow to be 75 to 100 feet tall.
And I can live to be 100 to 200 years old.
My bark is rough with ridges and valleys and is the color of grey-brown, sometimes spotted with white.
My trunk is home to other plants and many animals. Licorice ferns and moss grow on my bark. Raccoons and birds like to make homes in holes in my trunk.
I have huge leaves that can be one foot wide. My leaves have five lobes like fingers on a hand.

In the fall my leaves become golden-yellow and fall to the earth.
In spring my new leaves appear along with my hanging flower clusters. My flowers soon turn into seeds.
My seeds are called samaras and shaped like a V. On windy fall days they twirl through the air like helicopters.
And some of my seeds will lie on the ground protected under my fallen leaves all winter. When the warmth of spring arrives, my seeds will sprout into new bigleaf maple trees.
And if this little seedling is very lucky, it may someday grow into a huge old maple tree, like me.