



Book One: Mystery at the Barn

NOVEL STUDY

By Ronalee Bennett Orr

Name _____

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES



FRONT COVER

Title

What do you predict about the story from the title?

What questions do you have?

Illustration

What do you see:

In the background? _____

In the treehouse? _____

On the ground? _____

What questions do you have about the book from looking at the picture?

BACK COVER

Read the book summary. Does it answer any of the questions you have about the book so far?

Who wrote the book? _____

Check out this author online and see if you can find out more.

INTRODUCTORY PAGES

Illustrator

Who is the illustrator? _____

Acknowledgement

Authors often research topics they want to write about. Research can be done online, by reading books and by consulting with other people.

Who did this author consult with in writing the book?

RESEARCH POINT

1. Who are the Blackfoot people?

2. What groups belong to the Blackfoot Confederacy?

3. Where are Blackfoot reservations and communities located today?

In Canada

In the United States

The Windy Rafters Map



The Windy Rafters map at the beginning of the book shows us where to find everything at the resort. Some of these places are important to the story. Using the map in your package, find and label the following key places:

Barn – color it red

Treehouse – mark with an X

Abe Dalca’s cabin – circle it

Horse pasture – draw a black horse inside the pasture

Tearoom – draw a cup of tea beside this building

Vegetable garden – color it green

Old chicken coop – color it yellow

Old sheep shed – draw a sheep beside it

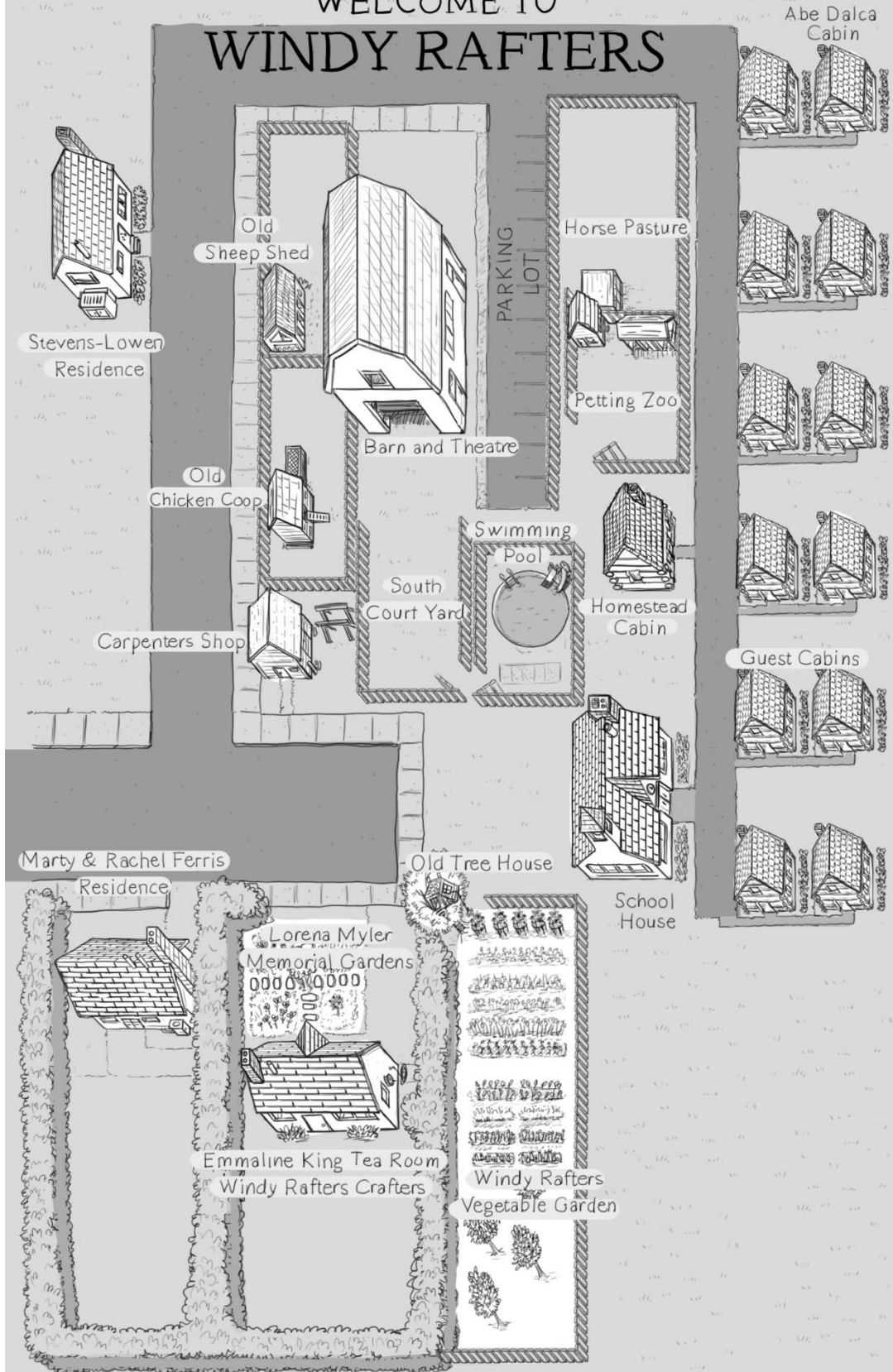
Petting zoo – draw a rooster inside the fence

Swimming pool – color the water blue

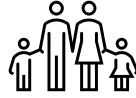
Homestead cabin – color it brown

South courtyard – draw a tipi in it

WELCOME TO WINDY RAFTERS



The Ferris Family Chart



Using the Ferris Family Chart at the front of your book, answer these questions.

1. What are the grandparents' names in this family?

2. What are the names of their four daughters?

3. How many grandchildren are in the family? _____

4. What are their first names?

Extension Activity:



Use the space below to draw a picture of your family. It could be in a chart or some other form.



Section 1: Chapters 1-3

Meet the Roughnecks

Use this chart to record what you know about the Windy Rafters Roughnecks. Add to it as you learn more about our main characters.

Name	Age	Appearance	Personality	Interests
Mellie Stevens				
Kendie Stevens				
Evan Benson				
Caz Benson				
Bronwyn Connors				
Benjie Connors				

Why do you think Beth Benson is not included as one of the Roughnecks?

Check Out the Barn



The Windy Rafters Barn is the center of the whole resort. It was built more than a hundred years ago. Since Papa renovated it, it has become a multi-purpose building. Using this floor plan of the barn, find the following places where important things take place.

Supply room – draw a broken egg

Loft – draw a Roughneck in the loft

Concession – draw a dollar sign

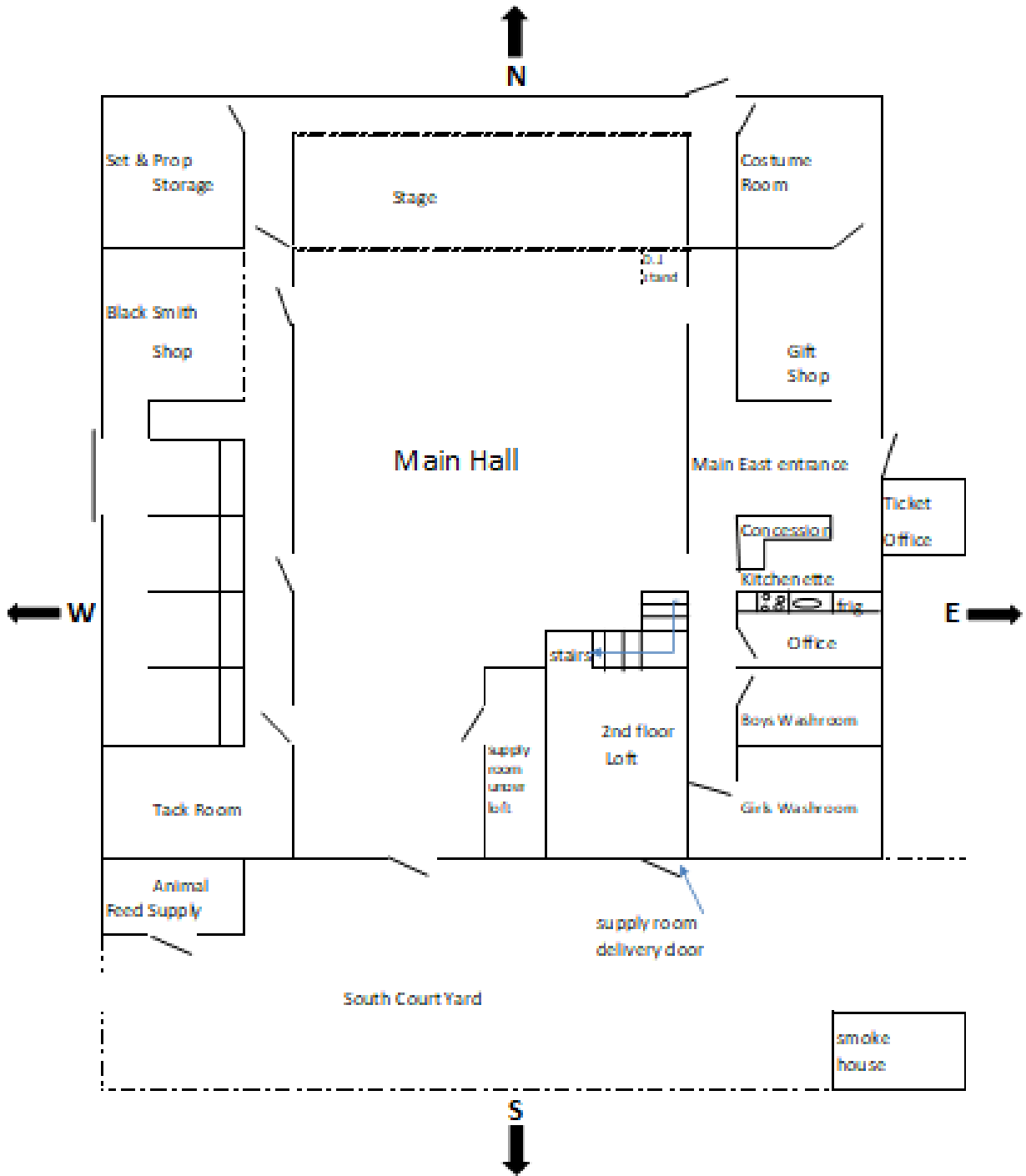
Tack room – draw a table and chairs

Main hall where meals, dances and plays take place – draw two people dancing

Office – draw a computer

Blacksmith shop – draw a hammer

WINDY RAFTERS BARN





INVESTIGATOR'S NOTEBOOK

TOP SECRET

*Begin after reading chapters 1-3 and continue until the
mystery is solved*

Name _____

Now you've read the first three chapters of the book, you are ready to start your own investigation of the mystery. For each chapter, be sure to update your Investigation Notebook by adding information about the suspects. Don't forget to record each incident of theft or vandalism that occurs at the resort. Use these records to help you solve the mystery. Maybe you'll even identify the thief before the Roughnecks!

LIST OF SUSPECTS

Suspect's name	Reasons suspected	Investigated by	Outcome of the investigation

Minor Characters

There are other people we meet at Windy Rafters, like adult family members and neighbors, that aren't main characters or suspects. Use this chart to add these people, too, just in case they turn into suspects as we go along. Chapter 1 is started for you.

Chapter	Name	Appearance	Other information
1	Jared Lowen		
1	Papa (Marty Connors)		
1	Julie Connors		
1	Dean Connors		
1	Grandma		

WORD POWER

Match each word with its definition

frenzy	shards	concession	debris
strewn	Virginia reel	antique	tarnished
duds	bandied	sledgehammer	

1. Small pieces of broken glass, metal, rocks or light _____
2. A place where people can purchase snacks or food _____
3. Moved back and forth _____
4. Slang word for clothing _____
5. An old-fashioned line dance _____
6. A frantic, fast-paced time _____
7. An object that is worth a lot because of its age _____
8. Pieces of garbage and ruined materials _____
9. A large, heavy hammer used to pound in fence posts _____
10. Untidy and scattered around _____
11. Metal that has turned dark and dull _____

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY



1. Why have the Ferris cousins organized themselves into the Windy Rafters Roughnecks?

2. Each of the Roughnecks finds a treasure in cleaning up the treehouse. What is the best thing you have ever found?

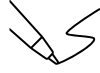
3. What strategies will the Roughnecks use to try to catch the thief?

4. Who do the Roughnecks seem to trust?

5. Do the Roughnecks have good reasons to distrust the people they have named as suspects? Why or why not?

6. When Mellie and Kendie overhear the conversation among Papa, Jared and Grandma after the barn dance, what new problem do they discover?

WRITING EXPERIENCE



Write a short paragraph to summarize what has happened so far in the story.

WHAT'S NEXT?



Make a prediction about what will happen next in the story.



Section 2: Chapters 4-6

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTEBOOK



Complete your Investigator's Notebook for this section of the story.

- Have any new suspects been added to the list?
- Have any suspects been investigated by the Roughnecks?
- What other characters have we met?
- Have any new incidents taken place?

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY



1. Why does Grandma believe it is Papa who locked her and the Roughnecks in the chicken coop? Do you think she is right?

2. What does Evan think about Jack Todmyer after meeting him?

3. Jack Todmyer says, "War is a heck of a thing". Why does he feel that way?

4. Mellie is confused when she overhears Aunt Ashlyn and her theatre group practicing for the melodrama at the barn. What is a melodrama?

5. Why hasn't Bronwyn investigated Joe Yellow Dog?

6. Why do Mellie and Kendie decide to make a baby quilt?

7. Why does Abe Dalca think that people choose to steal things? What other reasons might a person have for stealing?

8. What do Abe and Kendie have in common?

WHAT'S NEXT?

Make a prediction about what will happen next in the story.

WORD POWER



Parts of Speech Put each word in the correct column in the table below.

binoculars	fresh	peered	rheumy	runt	replica
reluctantly	followed	delicious	shuffled	spilled	varmint
scallywag	twister	vigorously	carefully	faded	curiously
scampered	shiny	nervous	quickly	grabbed	slowly

Noun A person, place or thing	Verb An action word	Adjective A word that describes a noun	Adverb A word that describes a verb

Write a sentence using a noun, a verb, an adjective and an adverb. Use at least two words from the above list in your sentence.



Section 3: Chapters 7-10

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTEBOOK



Complete your Investigator's Notebook for this section of the story.

- Have any new suspects been added to the list?
- Have any suspects been investigated by the Roughnecks?
- What other characters have we met?
- Have any new incidents taken place?

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY



1. Why does Papa suspect the Roughnecks for taking Grandma's cookie order?

2. Why is Mellie so angry about that accusation?

3. Why is Aunt Julie upset? Who does she suspect?

4. How does Kendie feel about Abe Dalca after meeting him? Does she think he should still be a suspect?

5. Evan has a bad experience in meeting Bud Weston. What things about this encounter leave Evan so upset?

6. Evan said, "Sometimes you have to take a chance." Do you agree or disagree?

7. What do Mellie and Kendie learn about Bud Weston? Does this new information change what they think about him?

8. What new suspect is added from the quilting group and why?

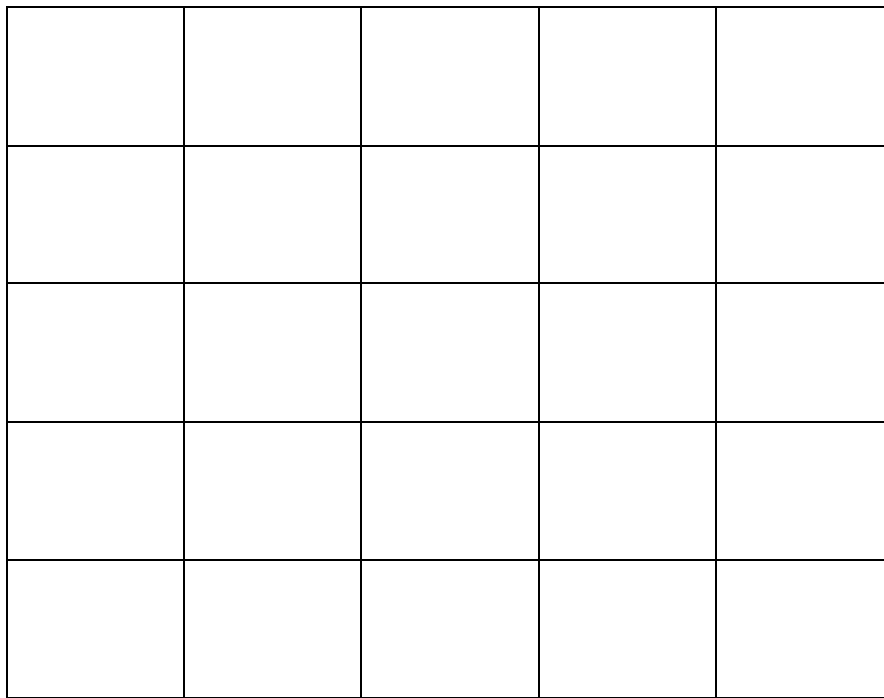
9. Why are Caz and Benjie in the chicken pen?

10. What do you think about Evan's encounter with Abe Dalca? Should he stay on the suspect list or not?

Extension Activity

MATH ART CONNECTION

Using the squares below, make a pattern for a quilt you would like to have on your bed. Remember: To be a pattern there must be repeating squares, colours, or designs.



WRITING EXPERIENCE



Describe the pattern you created and explain why you chose the colors and patterns you did.

WORD POWER



Alphabetical Order

Put the following words in alphabetical order. Use five of the above words to write sentences.

tarp	bedlam	accountant	chokecherry	pocketknife
disposable	pioneer	flannelette	pyromaniac	magnifying

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10



Section 4: Chapters 11-13

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTEBOOK



Complete your Investigator's Notebook for this section of the story.

WORD POWER



Antonyms are words that mean the opposite and synonyms are words that have similar meanings. Write a synonym and an antonym for each word from the story below.

Word	Synonym	Antonym
baby		
town		
different		
special		
played		
uncomfortable		
biggest		
summer		
busy		
floor		
done		
morning		
happy		
matching		
carefully		

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY



1. After babysitting Eli and Jake, why doesn't Mellie believe Lacy Britton should be a suspect? Do you agree?

2. What do Mellie and Lacy have in common?

3. Tell three things that Bronwyn learned about Joe Yellow Dog from talking with him.

4. What do Bronwyn and Joe have in common?

5. Do you think Joe should remain on the suspect list?

6. What name would you choose for the little black yearling colt?

7. Why did the men from California come to Windy Rafters?

8. What is the latest incident at the barn?

WHAT'S NEXT?

Make a prediction about what will happen in the story.

RESEARCH POINT

Read more online about First Nations traditional naming practices.

How is changing people's names part of cultural assimilation?

WRITING EXPERIENCE

Do you think the Ferris family should keep their resort or sell it? Write a persuasive paragraph to convince the family. Include at least three reasons from your point of view.



Section 5: Chapters 14-16

INVESTIGATOR'S NOTEBOOK



Complete your Investigator's Notebook for this section of the story.

WORD POWER



Find and write a definition for each of the following words.

Word	Definition
rhubarb	
artifacts	
fidgeted	
brandishing	
ushered	
urgent	
confrontation	
generations	
guarantee	
corporation	

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY



1. Mellie said, “You can’t always tell the good guys from the bad guys. Some people are really good at pretending to be something they’re not.” Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?

2. Why is Mellie upset when Caz and Benjie are playing “pow wow” in the garden?

3. What advice does Grandma give Mellie about the boys’ drumming and dancing?

4. Name at least 3 pieces of evidence Evan finds around and inside the homestead cabin.

5. How did Bronwyn identify her dad’s jeans?

6. Where did Evan go during the second half of the show?

7. Why do you think Grandma and Papa decided to keep Seth on at the resort after he was caught?

8. How do the Roughnecks feel about Seth staying at Windy Rafters?

9. How does Papa feel about selling the resort? How can you tell?

WHAT'S NEXT?

Make a prediction about what will happen in the story.

RESEARCH POINT

Research the following and discuss with your teacher and classmates.

What is “cultural appropriation”?

What are some examples of cultural appropriation?

How can you represent another culture appropriately?



Section 6: Chapters 17-19

WORD POWER

Match these words with their definitions

1	pemmican		A large rodent with a coat of sharp spines or quills
2	bannock		Shoes made of deerskin or other soft leather
3	travois		The headpiece worn by a prairie chicken dancer
4	snare		Soft leather made from the skin of a deer used for making clothing by First Nations people
5	parfleche bag		Winter food of the Blackfoot people made from fat, dried meat and berries
6	buckskin		A light rawhide bag used by the First Nations for carrying things, often used for storing pemmican
7	rawhide		A contagious disease that causes disfigurement and often death
8	porcupine		Animal hide that has not been tanned, used by First Nations for many purposes
9	small pox		A trap for wild animals
10	moccasins		A simple bread originating in Scotland, later made by First Nations people
11	roach		A sledge made of two joined poles used by First Nations people to carry goods

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY



1. Who are the Kainaiwa people?

2. What is Bronwyn's special ability when she travels back in time? How is this useful to the Roughnecks?

3. Why is Evan so worried and frightened?

4. How are the children received by the Blackfoot?

5. What Blackfoot name is each Roughneck given?

6. Who were the whisky traders?

7. According to Evan, what was the effect of firewater on the native people and how did it affect their trading?

8. How did the Blackfoot people help the Roughnecks?

9. How did the Roughnecks help the Blackfoot people?

10. How do Mellie and Kendie feel about the younger children's adventure?

WHAT'S NEXT? 

Make a prediction about what will happen in the story.

RESEARCH POINT



What are some colors and symbols used by the Blackfoot people?

What were Blackfoot tipis like, both inside and outside?

Can you find a recipe for firewater used by the whiskey traders?

Is there evidence to support the claim that First Nations people were given blankets infected by smallpox deliberately?

FACTS and OPINIONS

A **fact** is something that is known to be true and that can be proven.

An **opinion** is a belief or judgement about something, often based on a feeling.

Mark each statement F for fact or O for opinion.

	Pemmican was the winter food of the Blackfoot people.
	Jackrabbits taste better than bison (buffalo).
	All First Nations people should live on reservations.
	A parfleche bag was made of rawhide.
	Learning about history is a waste of time.
	Treaty 7 was signed on September 22, 1877.
	Berry soup was made from saskatoon berries.
	Native and non-native people can never really be friends.
	In the Blackfoot culture, women were considered the owners of the tipi.

Write two facts.

Write two opinions.

WRITING EXPERIENCE

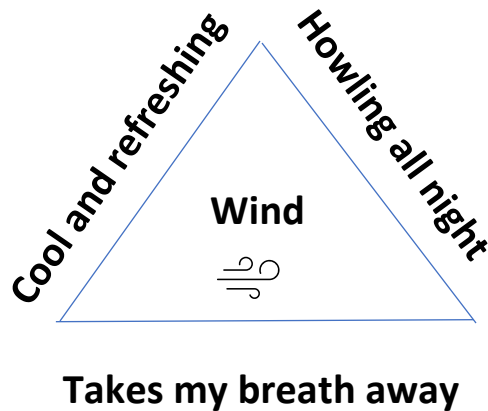


Choose one of the following:

A. Write a triangle poem, following these directions.

1. Write one word in the center of the triangle and draw a picture or design to help represent it. This is your topic.
2. Write a phrase or sentence on each side of the triangle to describe your topic.
3. The sides of the triangle can be read in any order when reading your poem.

Example



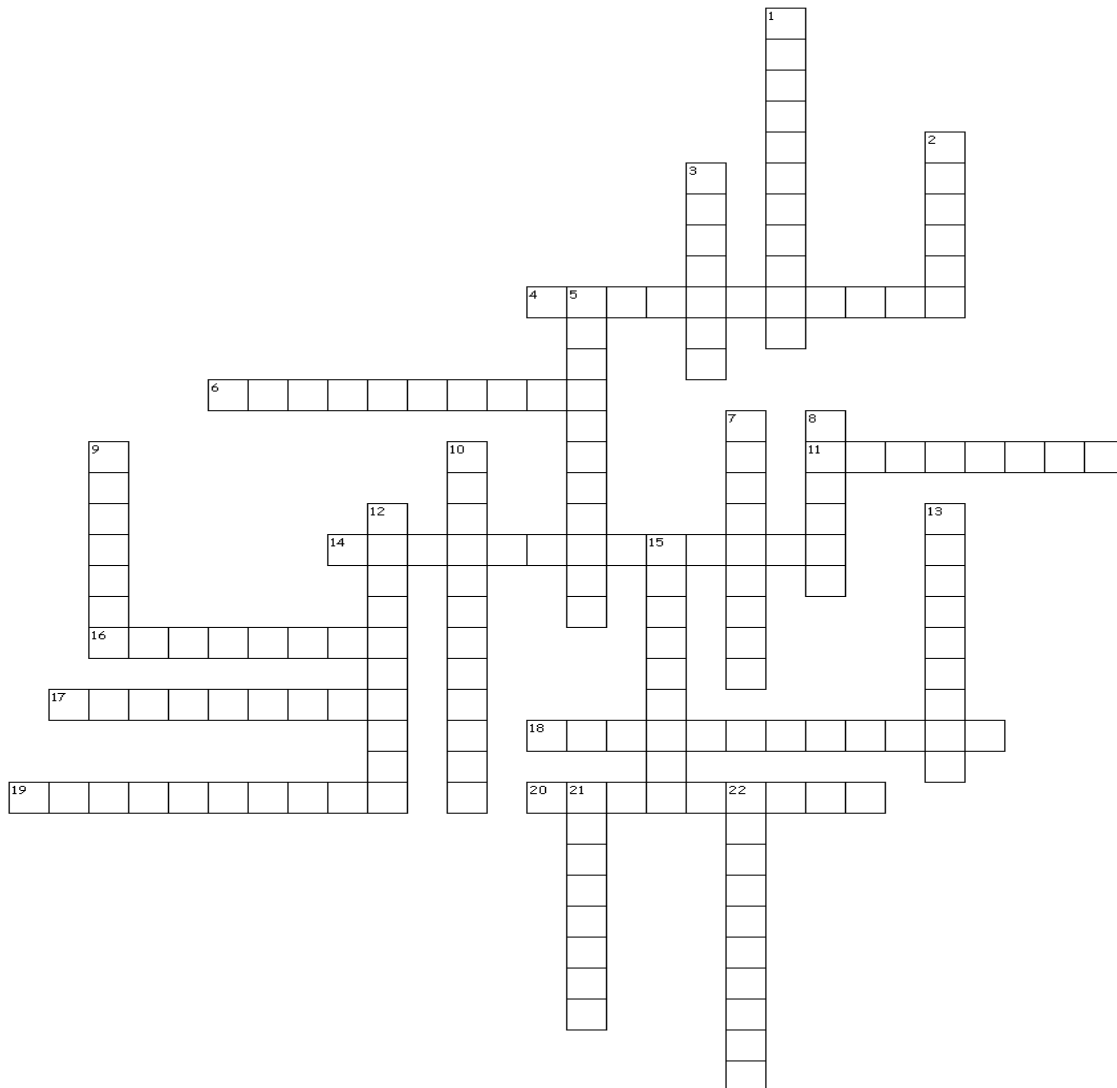
B. Write a poem about a time when you were in a faraway place. What did you see, hear, taste, smell? How did you feel about being there?



Section 7: Chapters 20-22

WORD POWER

Complete the crossword puzzle using words from this section on the next page.



<p>Word Bank</p> <p>Artifact</p> <p>Reservation</p> <p>Invention</p> <p>Unanimous</p> <p>Landscape</p> <p>Historical</p> <p>Permanent</p> <p>Interruption</p> <p>Collective</p> <p>Respectful</p> <p>Corporation</p>	<p>Treaty</p> <p>Archaeology</p> <p>Camouflage</p> <p>Ravens</p> <p>Buffalo</p> <p>Arrowhead</p> <p>Determination</p> <p>Organize</p> <p>Intermission</p> <p>Release</p> <p>Ancestor</p>
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<p>Across</p> <p>4. the study of human culture through its material artifacts</p> <p>6. done by people acting together as a group</p> <p>11. an object of cultural or historical interest</p> <p>14. firmness of purpose, resolute</p> <p>16. put into an order</p> <p>17. intended to last indefinitely</p> <p>18. a pause or a break</p> <p>19. concerning events in the past</p> <p>20. all the visual features of an area of land</p>	<p>Down</p> <p>1. a company or a group of people acting together as a business</p> <p>2. a formal agreement between countries</p> <p>3. set something free</p> <p>5. an area of land kept separate for First Nations people to live</p> <p>7. two or more people in full agreement</p> <p>8. large black birds found in North America</p> <p>9. a heavily built wild ox</p> <p>10. something that distracts or gets in the way</p> <p>12. feeling or showing respect</p> <p>13. a device or process that someone has created</p> <p>15. a sharpened stone tip added to an arrow</p> <p>21. a person from whom one is descended, usually farther back than a grandparent</p> <p>22. disguising something to blend in with its natural surroundings</p>
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UNDERSTANDING THE STORY



1. Why was Evan excited when he looked out over the landscape of the farm after his experience with the Blackfoot?

2. Why does Papa ask Evan, “Do you take other people’s things, treat them mean, or hurt them, just to get what you want or for fun?”

3. Papa also said, “Whenever you treat someone bad, it comes back to you.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?

4. Why is the invitation from Aunt Ashlyn for the Roughnecks to be in a play different from the other times they’ve been involved at the theatre?

5. Why did Aunt Ashlyn ask her friend Amanda Curly Rider to help with the Roughnecks’ play?

6. What did Evan bring home from Jack Todmyer’s store this time? What did the boys do with it after it was repaired?

7. What amazing thing happened at the tearoom on Tuesday morning just before the family meeting?

8. At the family meeting, Uncle Andrew said, "This place is all about history, and we are part of the history of it." How are people today part of history?

9. Do you think the Ferris' were wise or foolish to keep the resort?

WHAT'S NEXT?

Make a prediction about what will happen in the story.

WRITING EXPERIENCE



1. Treaty 7 was the treaty signed between the Blackfoot people and the Canadian government.

When was it signed?

What agreements were made between the Blackfoot Confederacy and the government?

Did the First Nations understand the agreement they were making?

3. What is Fort Whoop Up? Does it still exist?

4. Blackfoot historical sites and artifacts

Are there laws in Alberta about preserving historical places and artifacts? _____

Where are some of the Blackfoot historical sites?

Have you ever visited a Blackfoot historical site? _____



Section 8: Chapters 23-26

WORD POWER

Find the following words from the story in this Word Search. Choose three of these words and write them in a sentence.

Payroll	Audience	Government	Blaze	Officer	Suspense
Swatter	wheelbarrow	Prairie	Scenes	Arson	Commission
Fraud	Twine	Aboriginal	Partner	Local	Applause
woven	bait	surly	encore	brigade	ragged

B J O G E E L H R L J A S C E
J L I F O D S A I E W U W O S
E C A U J V A N C V I Z A M U
M T B Z J S E G E O E P T M A
S A M L E Z V R I P L E T I L
E C N E I D U A N R S A E S P
R E N T R A P Z P M B U R S P
S A N B A I T R E O E X S I A
W H E E L B A R R O W N L O D
S P V P T I O I F Y K L T N S
E A O U R C G R L V O E L R F
N R W I N I A R F R E N I W T
E S E E N U U C Y P V K Q E Z
C O T A D S L A O F F I C E R
S N L I T S P R A G G E D T W

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY



1. What does Aunt Erika discover while working on the barn computer?

2. What is fraud?

3. Why did Evan decide to keep the coyote pup instead of letting it go?

4. Why did Evan keep the pup hidden instead of sharing it with the other boys and the rest of the family?

5. What is the good news Papa shares with the family about the California company?

6. Why does Evan feel too sick to eat breakfast?

7. Why was Seth playing with the kittens in the chicken coop?

8. In the cousins' play, Kendie says, "The people come and the people go, but the heartbeat of the land goes on forever." What do you think she means?

9. Why does Seth feel justified in stealing from the Ferris family? Do you think he accepts Papa's explanation for what happened?

10. What does Papa mean when he says, "It never rains but what it pours?"

11. Why is Aunt Ashlyn so upset about everything that happened with Seth Borden?

12. What will Mellie do before she puts the notebook away in the tote?



FINAL ACTIVITIES

IDENTIFYING THE CONFLICT



Conflict refers to the obstacles and problems the characters face. As they work through these challenges, the story moves forward, and the characters learn from their experiences. Here are different types of conflict that can occur.

A. Man against himself

A character struggles with his own problems and weaknesses

B. Man against society

A character struggles with part of society such as a school, a government, or a company

C. Man against nature

A character struggles against something in nature such as the weather, a natural disaster, or an animal

D. Man against Man

Characters struggle against each other.

Identify the type of conflict in each example below.

_____ The Roughnecks against Seth Borden

_____ Evan against the mother coyote

_____ Papa against the California company

NAME THAT CHARACTER



A book may have different kinds of characters. Read about each character type and then give an example from the list below. The first one is done for you.

Mellie	Kendie	Evan
Bronwyn	Caz	Benjie
Papa	Bud Weston	Grandma
Joe Yellow Dog	Seth Borden	Lacy Britton
California guys	Beth	Aunt Jennifer
Uncle Jared	Aunt Ashlyn	Uncle Andrew
Aunt Erika	Uncle Dean	Jack Todmyer

Main Characters play an important part in the story. The story follows what they do and what happens to them.

Example: Kendie

Minor Characters come in and out of the story to help move it along, but the story isn't about them specifically.

Example: _____

Dynamic Characters change because of what happens to them in the story.

Example: _____

Static Characters stay the same throughout the story. Their beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours do not change.

Example: _____

The Protagonist(s) is/are the main character(s) of the story. Often, they are the voice of the story and events are told from their point of view.

Example: _____

The Antagonist(s) is/are those that cause the problems the protagonists are trying to solve.

Example: _____

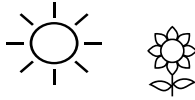
Round Characters are complex people. They have many different parts to their personalities.

Example: _____

Flat Characters are simple characters. We may only know one quality.

Example: _____

CAUSE and EFFECT



When characters take action, things happen as a result. This is called “cause and effect”. Sometimes the result is what you expect, but sometimes it’s a surprise. Complete the following cause and effect situations from the story.

Cause	Effect
Benjie pulls feathers from the rooster’s tail	
Bronwyn visits the kittens every day and tries to pick them up	
Evan hides the coyote pup in the sheep shed instead of letting him go	
Evan gives his pocketknife as a gift to the Blackfoot boy, Yellow Dog	
Mellie is caught snooping in Lacy Britton’s studio	

IDENTIFYING THE THEMES



A story may have one theme or more than one theme. **A theme is an important central idea that connects the story together.**

Here are ten examples of themes from children’s literature:

courage friendship trust anger belonging
family identity loss/grief forgiveness justice

Discuss the themes in *Windy Rafters Roughnecks* with your teacher and classmates.

ONE THEME IN WINDY RAFTERS ROUGHNECKS IS: _____

Examples of this theme are

1.

2

3

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES



1. Write an acrostic poem using the word Roughnecks

R _____

O _____

U _____

G _____

H _____

N _____

E _____

C _____

K _____

S _____

2. Research your own cultural heritage and choose a way to share it.
3. Make up your own final project and get it approved by your teacher.