

Missing May

Lit Link

Grades 4-6

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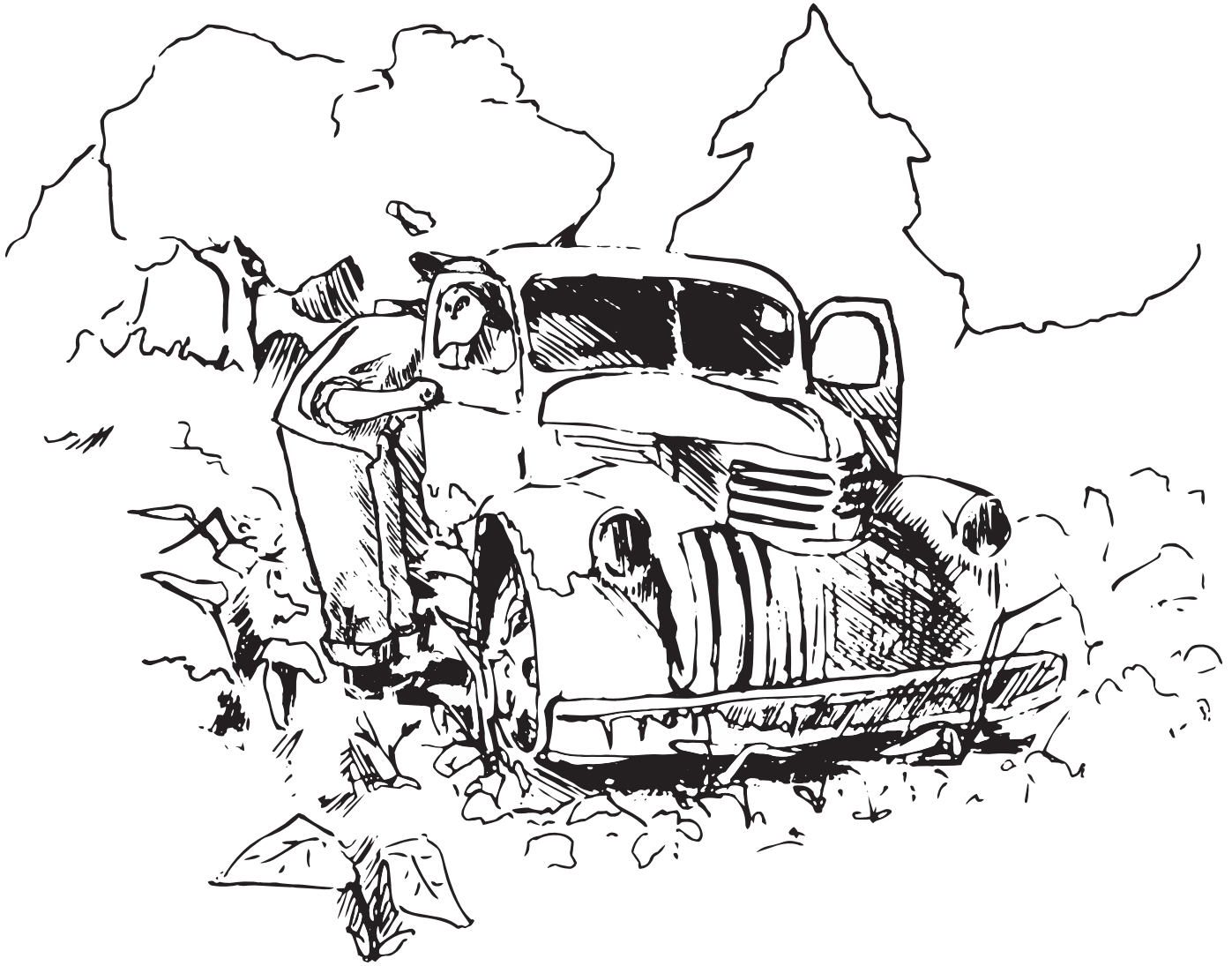


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Name: _____



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Chapter 1

Before you read the chapter:

The feeling that one belongs is very important. What things make you feel like you belong in a place? Try to think of two or three things.

Why do you think it is important to feel like you belong?

Vocabulary:

Draw a straight line to connect the vocabulary word to its definition. Remember to use a straight edge (like a ruler).

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. paradise | shelving unit |
| 2. recognize | askew |
| 3. aluminum | not on purpose |
| 4. hoist | heaven |
| 5. design | spinning toy |
| 6. cockeyed | a metal |
| 7. accident | plan |
| 8. whirligig | lift |
| 9. cabinet | intention |
| 10. purpose | acknowledge |



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Questions:

1. The novel begins with a rather startling sentence. Why do you think the author began the novel in this way?

2. Why do you think Ob sat in the old Chevy the night after May died?

3. a) Describe how Summer imagined her early life with her mother had been.

- b) How does she justify these feelings? Are these thoughts of her mother realistic or not? Defend your answer.

4. Describe the **setting** of the novel. Remember, a setting should include both the place and time period.



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5. Describe the self-image that Summer has. Is it mainly positive or negative? Give proof from the story.

6. Despite the fact that Ob only designs and makes whirligigs, why does Summer believe him to be an artist?

7. a) Describe Ob's whirligigs.

b) Why did they appeal to Summer?

8. The author often has a very creative way of expressing herself in this novel. Put the following statement into your own words: "I'd been treated like a homework assignment somebody was always having to do."
