

# The Stone Orchard

**Grades 7-8**

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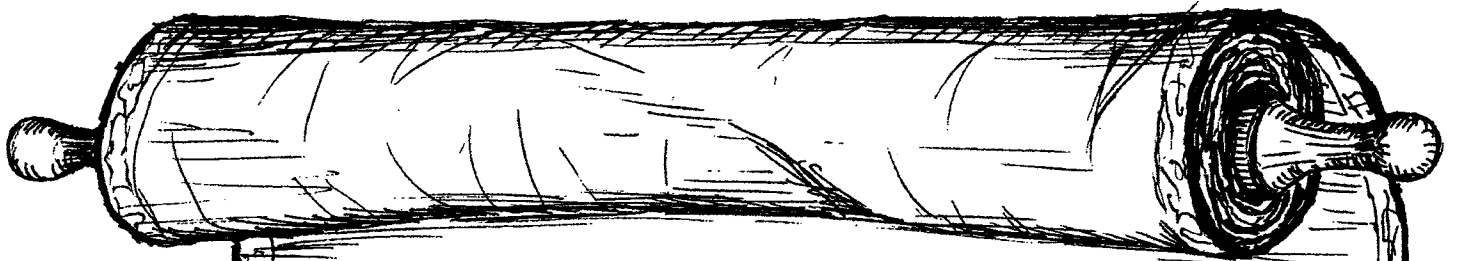
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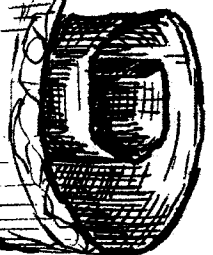
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*the Stone Orchard*  
by  
*Susan E. Merritt*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_





## Chapter One

- What is this welcomed news for Maud?
  - How does it affect her?
  - Find **five** examples from the chapter that support your answer.
  - Find **five** things that prove Maud had trouble keeping her feelings about the news inside.
- The reader has met Skinflint Skinner. Describe the kind of man he is. Support your characteristics with documented information from the chapter.
- What do you think has happened to Eli in the past, and why is Maud so unhappy about it?
- What is the important role that the newspaper plays in this first chapter?
- Why isn't Papa home when Maud arrives there with the newspaper?

## Chapter Two

- Whom does Maud meet in a woodlot not far from home?
- The reader learns a great many things about Dutch. List **five** to **seven** characteristics that will describe the kind of person she is.
- Could the name "Dutch Bramwell" be this person's real name? Explain what you think.
- Dutch wants to show Maud her fortune.
  - List the **ten** cards that Dutch places down for Maud.
  - Select any **three** cards. Draw, color and point out briefly what Dutch is able to see in the future for these cards. Try your best art skills.
- Explain what you think Dutch's chant means for Maud and her future (see page 31 of the novel).

## Chapter Three

- Who had come banging at the Fraser's Inn door in the middle of the night? What was the reason for it?



2. Why do you think these soldiers wanted to invade Canada West? Give possible reasons.
3. Maud thinks about Dutch and Jack. Explain why her memory of them flashes back.
4. What news does young Will bring to the Frasers from town? (**four** things)
5. What has Gran asked young Will and Maud not to do while the Fenians are still in the area?
6. Gran called Skinner a "fool". What did she mean when she said, "He never could see beyond the color of a man's skin?"

## Chapter Four

1. Who was Gran looking for this particular morning and why?
2. a) What answer did Maud give Gran when asked why she was shivering on such a hot day?  
b) What do you think she meant by that?
3. How did Gran and Maud know that the troops were getting close to their home.
4. What brave act does Maud offer to do in order to make Gran not so fearful of the situation?
5. If Maud is able to accomplish this, how does she hope her papa will react when he hears about it?
6. What thought would probably run through Maud's mind when she heard her Gran call, "Don't go child! I need you in the kitchen!"

## Chapter Five

1. Why was Gran cooking so much food this morning and in such a fluster?
2. List the various kinds of food and drink the women prepared for the visitors.
3. What did the soldiers look like from a distance?



4. Describe the condition of most of the soldiers when they arrived on the front lawn of Fraser's Inn.
5. What did Gran mean when she said, "All I'm saying is; pretty uniforms won't win any wars."
6. List the many things that Gran had noticed the Canadian soldiers to be lacking which could prevent them from being successful.
7. Why do you think Colonel Booker ignored young Will's warning of the Fenian trap?
8. Charlie and John Joseph are close friends. What does war-time often do to close friendships like this? Explain.

## **Chapter Six**

1. List the things that Will saw and said that make you feel he was telling the truth about the Fenians being at the Watson's farm.
2. Does Gran feel that Will is telling the truth to Colonel Booker? Explain.
3. Explain why Colonel Booker's decision was so important and so difficult.

## **Chapter Seven**

1. Maud reminds Will of the saying, "Children should be seen and not heard." Do you think this happens often in your family? Explain.
2. What shows that Will is very responsible about the care and safety of his own family?
3. List some things that Will said to Maud which show that war and fighting really excite him.
4. What is Gran Fraser's plan regarding the safety of the family?

## **Chapter Eight**

1. List the things the family has to do before they could leave for Abino Hills?
2. Why did Maud decide to remove the big white sign which said "Fraser Inn"?