




























Table of Contents

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Chapter 1



Camp Green Lake is a



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Camp for Bad Boys



The largest lake in Texas used to be Green Lake.



The lake is dry now. The water is gone and the land is



flat and dry. But Camp Green Lake is still there.



Stanley Yelnats was not a bad boy but a judge



said he was guilty. The judge gave him a choice. The



judge said Stanley could go to jail or go to Camp Green



Lake. The judge did not tell Stanley about the camp.



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Camp Green Lake is a camp for bad boys.



Stanley's family is poor. Stanley thinks going to



camp might be fun. So Stanley picks Camp Green Lake.



Stanley has a lot of trouble. Stanley blames his



trouble on his great-great-grandfather. When his



great-great-grandfather was young, a gypsy put a curse on



him for not keeping a promise. Stanley thinks the gypsy's



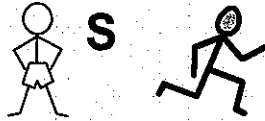
curse is why he has to go to Camp Green Lake.



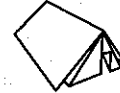
Camp Green Lake is a camp for bad boys.



Camp Green Lake has no fences. The Warden does



not have to worry about boys running away. There is



nowhere to run. Stanley is assigned to tent D. He meets



the other boys. The boys tell Stanley he will have to dig

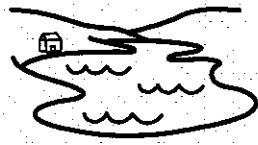
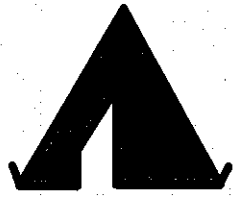


a big hole everyday. Camp Green Lake is a camp for

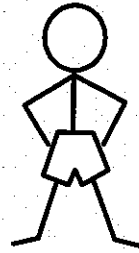
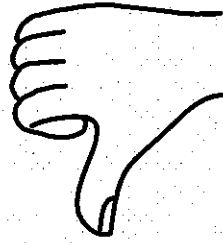


bad boys.

Chapter 2



Camp Green Lake is a

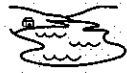


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Place for Bad Boys



Stanley takes a shower. Water is scarce at



Camp Green Lake so his shower is short. Next, Stanley eats



dinner. The boys ask Stanley why he is at Camp Green Lake.



Stanley tells them the judge found him guilty of stealing a



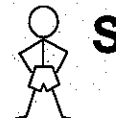
pair of sneakers from a famous basketball player.



Stanley tells the boys how it happened. He is



walking home one day. The sneakers fall from a bridge.



Camp Green Lake is a place for bad boys.



One sneaker hits Stanley in the head. It turns out



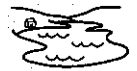
the sneakers have been stolen from a homeless shelter. The



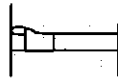
police see Stanley with the sneakers and arrest him.



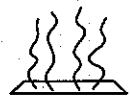
The judge gave him a choice. He could go to



jail or Camp Green Lake. Stanley chose Camp Green Lake.



After dinner, Stanley lies on his cot and tries to sleep.



In the morning the boys start digging holes in the dry



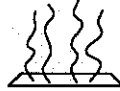
lake. Camp Green Lake is a place for bad boys.



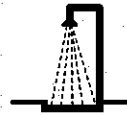
Stanley digs his first hole and gets



blisters on his hands. Camp Green Lake is not a fun place.



Digging is hard work. It is so hot. Stanley is so thirsty. He



wants a drink of water. He wants to take a shower. Finally



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the boys finish digging and return to camp. Camp Green



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Lake is a camp for bad boys.



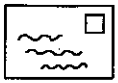
Stanley is very tired but he has to take a shower.



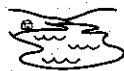
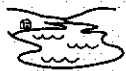
Stanley's blisters are very bad. His hands hurt! Stanley



misses his family. Before he goes to sleep, he writes a



letter to his family. He does not tell his family about



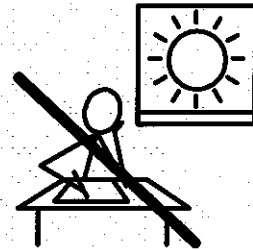
Camp Green Lake. Camp Green Lake is a camp for bad



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boys.

Chapter 3



Stanley Wants a Day Off



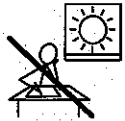
The next day Stanley is very sore. It hurts to



eat his oatmeal. Stanley starts digging his second hole. He



finds a rock with fish fossils on it. Stanley remembers the



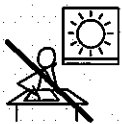
day off rule. When someone finds something the Warden likes,



they get a day off. He hopes the Warden likes the fossil.



Stanley shows the fossil to Mr. Pendansky. Stanley wants



a day off.



He says the fossil is not a treasure and Stanley has to



keep digging.



Stanley wants the boys to like him. X-Ray is the



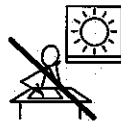
leader of Tent D. All the boys have nick names. Stanley's



nick name is Caveman. He does not feel like a caveman. He



feels tired and sore.



Stanley wants a day off.



On the second day Stanley is the last to finish



digging again. When he gets back to camp Mr. Pendansky is



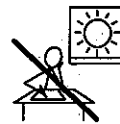
talking with all the boys. He wants the boys to make



goals for when they leave Camp Green Lake. He tells them



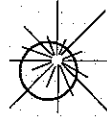
they are in charge of their futures. Stanley's goal is to



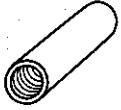
find a treasure. Stanley wants a day off.



Stanley starts digging his fourteenth hole. After



lunch he finds something shiny in the dirt. It is a narrow



silver tube about the size of his finger. Stanley shows it to



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some of the boys. X-Ray takes it from Stanley.



Early the next day X-Ray shows the treasure to



Mr. Pendansky. If the Warden likes it X-Ray gets the day off.



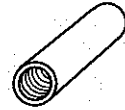
Stanley wants a day off.



Stanley does not tell anyone that he really found



the treasure. He does not want to make X-Ray mad.



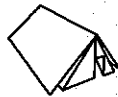
Mr. Pendansky shows the Warden the silver tube.



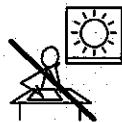
The Warden likes the treasure a lot. X-Ray gets the day off



and extra time in the shower. He gets clean clothes, too. All



the boys from Tent D get water in their canteens.

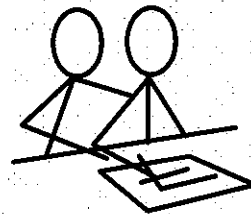


Stanley wants a day off.

Chapter 4



Zero



wants to Learn to Read



The Warden wants the boys to keep looking for



more treasure. She makes them look through the piles of



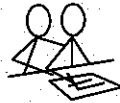
loose dirt. They look in the dirt near X-Ray's crater.



The Warden stays with them all day because she wants to



make sure the boys do not miss any treasure.



Zero wants to learn to read.



X-Ray and the other boys treat Stanley nicer. The



Warden tells the boys to dig faster. She wants them to



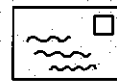
find more treasure. The boys get to dig in pairs.



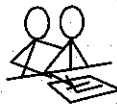
Digging in pairs is easier than digging alone. But Stanley



knows they are digging in the wrong place. After they



finish digging for the day, Stanley gets a letter from his



mom. Zero wants to learn to read.



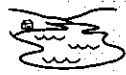
The next day the boys keep digging the same



holes. The three holes are so big they become one



giant hole. The boys dig longer than the other boys at



Camp Green Lake. Stanley gets hit in the head with a



shovel. Mr. Pendansky, the Warden, and Mr. Sir make him



keep working. The Warden gives up. The boys have not



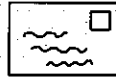
found any new treasure. Zero wants to learn to read.



Each boy starts digging his own hole again.



Stanley is much stronger but he is still slow digging holes.



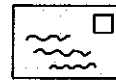
That night, Stanley writes a letter to his mother. He wants



his mom to think Camp Green Lake is a lot of fun. He tells



his mom that he is learning to swim and making new

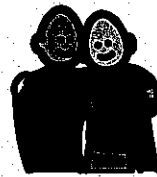


friends. Zero sees Stanley writing a letter. Zero wants



to learn to read.

Chapter 5



Stanley Needs a Friend



Mr. Sir loves to eat sunflower seeds. One day



Magnet steals Mr. Sir's sunflower seeds from the water truck.



When Mr. Sir discovers his sunflower seeds are gone he



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knows the boys from Tent D stole them and he wants them



back. Mr. Sir searches for the seeds. He finds the bag of



sunflower seeds in Stanley's hole. Mr. Sir is very mad.



Stanley needs a friend.



Stanley is in big trouble. Mr. Sir takes Stanley to see the



Warden. Mr. Sir tells the Warden that Stanley took



sunflower seeds.



The Warden is mad at Mr. Sir for bringing Stanley



to her cabin. The Warden puts her special nail polish on



her fingernails. The nail polish has snake venom in it. It is



only poisonous when it is wet. Stanley needs a friend.



The Warden scratches Mr. Sir with her wet



nail polish. The snake venom makes Mr. Sir very sick.



When Stanley gets back, he is surprised that



someone has finished digging his hole. He thanks all the



S



boys. Stanley did not steal the sunflower seeds but he took



X



the blame for it. Zero boy has the most digging left to do.



Stanley knows Zero dug his hole for him.



Stanley needs a friend.



Stanley asks Zero why he helped him. Zero



tells Stanley he knows Stanley did not steal the



sunflower seeds or the sneakers. Zero knows Stanley is not



a bad boy. Zero knows Stanley really needs a friend.



Stanley wants to do something nice for Zero.



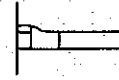
Stanley decides to teach Zero to read. Stanley also teaches



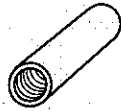
Zero to write his name. Stanley and Zero work hard.



Stanley needs a friend.

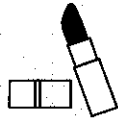


That night Stanley lies in his bed. He thinks



about the silver tube he found. He has seen something like

it before. Then he remembers his mother had one like it. It



was the top of a lipstick tube. This one had the letters K.

B. on the bottom. Maybe the letters mean something.



Stanley needs a friend.

Chapter 6



Kate Barlow Loved Sam the Onion Man



In the past Green Lake was a beautiful place. Every



year on the Fourth of July everyone would picnic around the



lake. Kate Barlow was the only teacher in Green Lake. She



made the best spiced peaches in town. She taught everyone



in the town to read. She taught the children to read in the



day. She taught the men to read at night. Kate Barlow



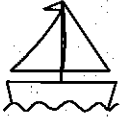
loved Sam the onion man.



Trout Walker was the richest man in town. He liked



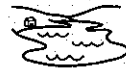
Kate a lot. He wanted to take her for a date on his new



boat. Kate said no thank you. Trout was mad.



Sam believed onions were the secret to a long



and healthy life. The people of Green Lake got better when



they ate Sam's onions. Sam liked to help people. Kate



asked Sam to repair the school house.



Kate Barlow loved Sam the onion man.



Kate paid Sam with her delicious



spiced peaches. Sam made the school house look brand new.



Kate taught Sam to read. Kate and Sam fell in



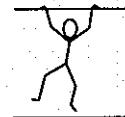
love. This was a big problem for them because Sam was



a black man and Kate was a white woman. They kissed in



the middle of town. It was against the law for a black man



to kiss a white woman. Sam would have to be hanged.



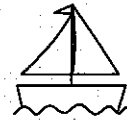
Kate Barlow loved Sam the onion man.



Trout and the other men burned down



the school house. Kate was mad. She wanted to be with



Sam. They tried to run away together on Sam's boat but



Trout's boat was faster.



The town's people killed Sam. Kate killed the



sheriff and ran away. Kate was an outlaw. Kate was



gone for 20 years. Kate robbed many banks. Kate Barlow



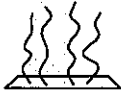
loved Sam the onion man.



Kate even robbed Stanley's great-great-grandfather.



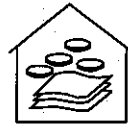
When she returned to Green Lake all the water was gone and



the lake was dry. It had not rained for 20 years. She



found a cabin and buried her treasure. Her treasure was the



money she had stolen from the banks. Trout found Kate.



He wanted her treasure. Kate did not give him her



treasure. A yellow spotted lizard bit Kate and she died.



Kate Barlow loved Sam the onion man.

Chapter 7



Stanley and Zero Make a Deal



Mr. Sir is very mad at Stanley. Mr. Sir's face is

swollen half the size of a cantaloupe. A boy from a different



tent asks Mr. Sir what happened to his face. Mr. Sir is so



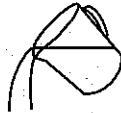
mad he hits the boy. Stanley keeps quiet.



Mr. Sir punishes Stanley by not refilling his



water canteen. Instead of putting the water in the canteen,



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Mr. Sir pours all the water on the ground. The boys decide to



help each other. Stanley and Zero make a deal.



Mr. Sir did not fill Stanley's canteen for many days.



Mr. Pendansky gives Stanley extra water because he knows



that Stanley is not getting enough. Stanley learns to drink just

a little water every day.



One day Mr. Sir starts filling Stanley's canteen with



water again. This makes Stanley suspicious. Stanley is afraid



Mr. Sir put poison in his water so he does not drink it.



Stanley and Zero make a deal.



When they are not busy digging holes, Stanley



teaches Zero to read and write. Zero works hard to



learn. Zero can write all the letters of the alphabet. He



can even write his name.



One afternoon Stanley hears thunder over the



mountains. He hopes it will rain. The lightning lights up the sky



and Stanley sees some rocks on top of the mountain.



Stanley and Zero make a deal.



The rocks look like a fist with a thumb pointing

toward the sky. He remembers a story his



great-great-grandfather told him. After Kate Barlow robbed him,



his great-great-grandfather survived on "God's thumb". Stanley



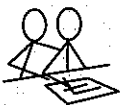
thinks the rocks look like "God's thumb".



Here is the deal the the boys make. Zero



digs half of Stanley's holes and Stanley teaches Zero



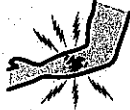
to read. Stanley and Zero make a deal.



This deal makes the other boys mad. Zig Zag is



so mad, he picks a fight with Stanley. Stanley is not a



good fighter and gets hurt. Mr. Pendansky fires his gun into



the air. Stanley tells the adults about the deal.



Mr. Pendansky can not believe that Zero can



read. He tells Zero to spell a word. Zero refuses to



spell the word and Mr. Pendansky calls Zero stupid.



Stanley and Zero make a deal.



Zero gets mad and hits Mr. Pendansky in the



head with a shovel. Zero takes off running. He is in big



trouble. Stanley and Zero make a deal.

Chapter 8



Stanley and Zero Find "God's Thumb"



Mr. Sir punishes Stanley for teaching Zero to read.



Because Zero ran away, Stanley has to dig Zero's holes.



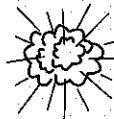
Stanley worries about Zero. He hopes Zero will make it



across the lake to "God's Thumb". Zero does not come



back. All the adults think Zero will die. All the



information about Zero is destroyed. The next day Stanley



tries to steal the water truck to save his friend. He drives it



into a hole. Stanley and Zero find "God's Thumb".



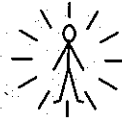
Stanley takes off running. Nobody comes after him.



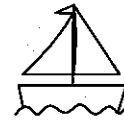
Stanley walks all day in the hot sun and sees a lot of



holes. He has no water in his canteen. It is empty.



Stanley sees Zero. He is still alive. Zero needs



a drink of water. Stanley drags Zero to an upside down boat



in the middle of the dry lake. They find jars with



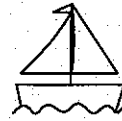
something sweet in them. They are very hungry and thirsty.



Stanley and Zero find "God's Thumb".



Zero calls the fruity contents in the jars



splish. They eat all the splish in the boat. Zero



refuses to go back to Camp Green Lake. Stanley wants to go



to the top of the mountain.



Zero gets very sick from the splish. Zero



ate from the jars that were easy to open. The boys walk



for a long time. They carry the shovel, burlap bag, and



jars of splish. Stanley and Zero find "God's Thumb".



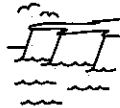
Stanley has to help Zero. He is very weak. The



boys reach a tall cliff. Stanley wants to stop and rest but he



was afraid if Zero stops he will not start again.



The two boys climb up the tall cliff. Stanley spells words for



Zero to say. He wants to distract Zero from



feeling so sick. They make it out of the lake and



climb up the side of the mountain.



Stanley and Zero find "God's Thumb".



They see bugs and weeds. Zero throws up and



collapses. Stanley carries Zero for a long time. He has to



leave the shovel and burlap bag behind. Stanley is too weak



and he trips and falls. He can not carry Zero anymore. It is



muddy where Stanley falls. He thinks to himself that if there



is mud, there must be water. He digs deep and finds



water. Stanley and Zero drink the muddy water and fall asleep.



Stanley and Zero find "God's Thumb".

Chapter 9



Zero Tells the Truth



The boys wake up early the next morning. Both of



them are completely exhausted. They drink more muddy



water. Stanley digs the hole deeper with his hands. He



finds an onion. The two friends share the onion.



Zero tells Stanley he stole the sneakers. They



rest for two more days. They eat onions and drink water.



Stanley finally walks down the mountain to get the shovel



and jars in the burlap bag. Zero tells the truth.



Stanley walks a very long way. He can not believe



that he carried Zero this far. The friends live on the



mountain for a week. Before Camp Green Lake Zero lived



in the homeless shelter. He did not know where his mother



was. He needed a new pair of sneakers. No one was using



the sneakers so he took them. Zero did not know that they



belonged to someone famous. Zero tells the truth.



No one at the homeless shelter noticed the



sneakers on Zero's feet. When he learned they were famous



sneakers he ran away from the homeless shelter. Zero took

them off and left them on top of a car. A couple days later



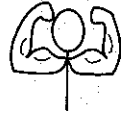
Zero was arrested for stealing a brand new pair of



sneakers from a store.



Zero tells the truth.



The boys get stronger. They realize that if Zero



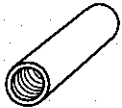
had not stolen the sneakers from the shelter they would never



be friends. Stanley knew this was destiny. The boys make a



plan to return to camp. Stanley keeps thinking about the



silver tube. Zero tells the truth.

Chapter 10



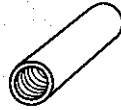
Stanley Finds the Treasure



They make it back to camp in one day. They



wait until everyone is sleeping. They start digging in the



hole where Stanley found the silver tube. It is pitch black

dark outside. He cannot see his hand in front of his face.



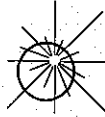
Stanley digs until he hits something hard. It is a metal



box. He keeps digging until he gets the metal box free.



Stanley finds a treasure.



A bright light shines in Stanley's face. It is the



Warden. Stanley gives the box to Zero to hold. Stanley is

blinded by the light. He does not see the



yellow-spotted lizards on Zero. He does not know he is



standing in a nest of poisonous lizards.



Mr. Pendansky, Mr. Sir, and all the other adults



arrive at the hole. They are afraid of the lizards. They wait



for one to attack. Stanley finds a treasure.

The adults try to make a plan. The sun comes up and the



lizards crawl back into the shade of the hole. Zero reads



the name on the box - Stanley Yelnats. The treasure belongs



to Stanley. It was his great-great-grandfather's. Stanley's



lawyer arrives. Stanley is free. His lawyer discovered that



Stanley was innocent. Zero is free too, because all of his



records were destroyed. Stanley finds a treasure.



At last Stanley and Zero can leave Camp Green



Lake. They ride away in the lawyer's air-conditioned car.

The lawyer makes them keep the back windows open



because they smell like onions. It turns out that lizards hate



the smell of onions, too. Stanley and Zero ate a lot of



onions and the lizards did not want to be near them. Eating



the onions kept them safe. Stanley finds a treasure.



When Stanley gets his treasure home he is rich.



Zero finds his mother and the two boys remain friends.



Stanley realized that when he carried Zero up the mountain



he broke the curse the gypsy had put on his



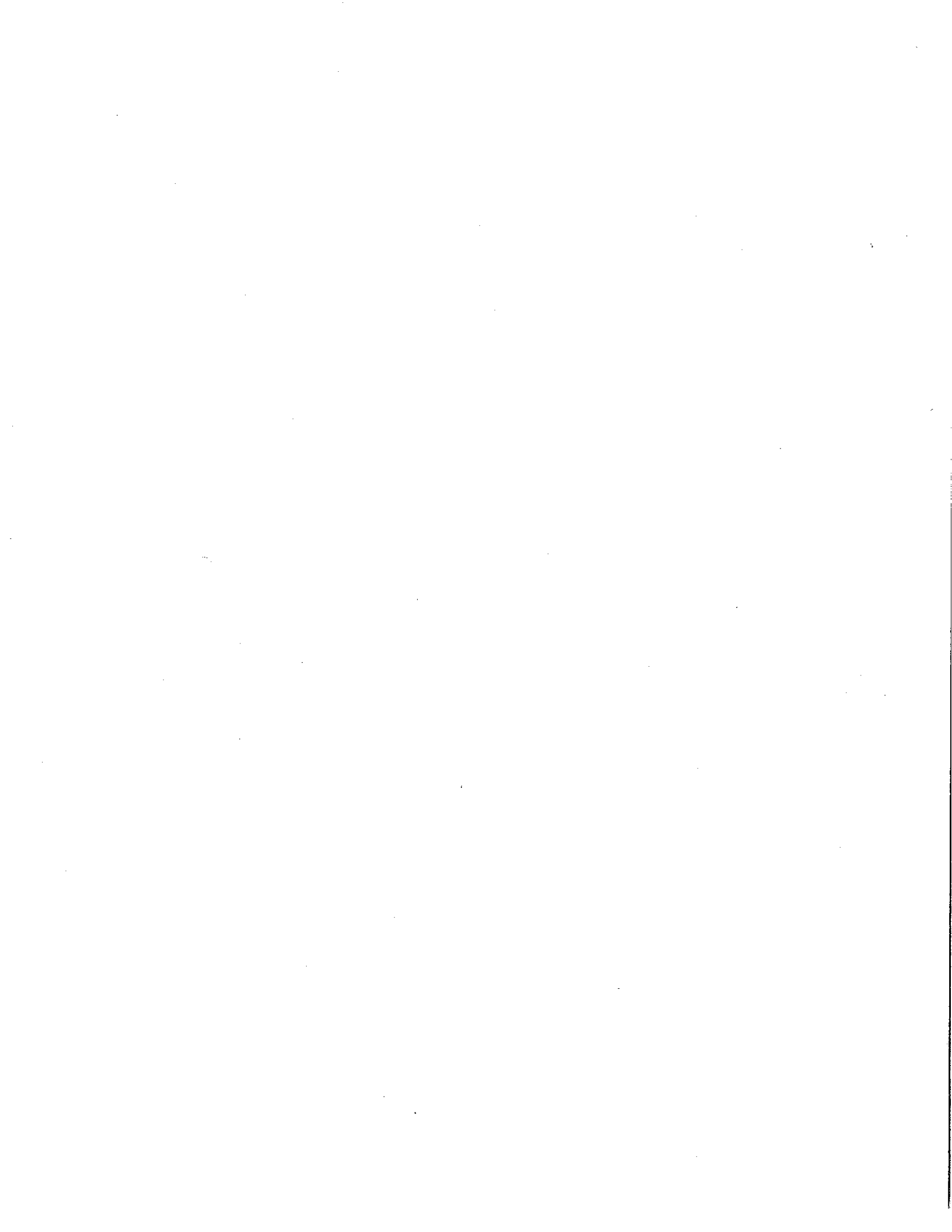
great-great-grandfather.



Stanley finds a treasure.



The End





Vocabulary Words



sneakers



camp



shovel



water



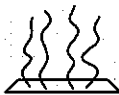
hole



treasure



friends



dry



lake



boys



bad



family



past



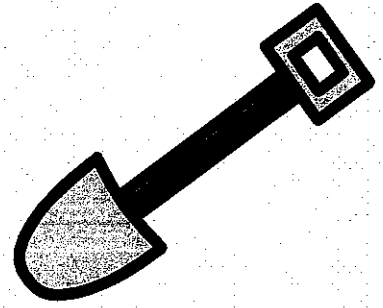
dig



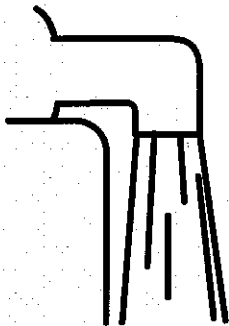
hurt



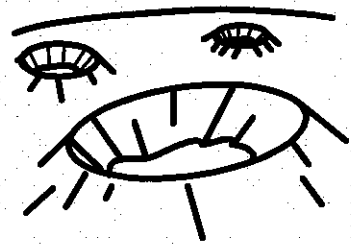
sneakers



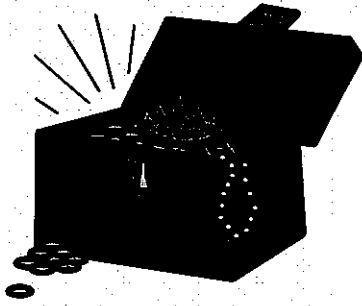
shovel



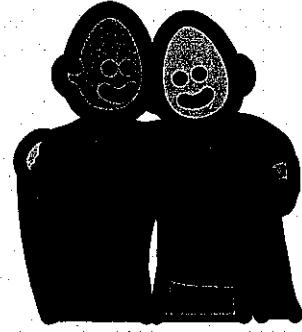
water



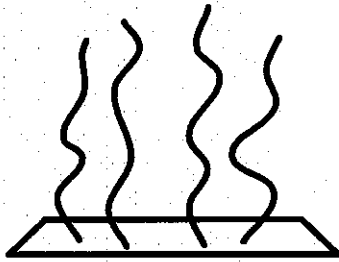
hole



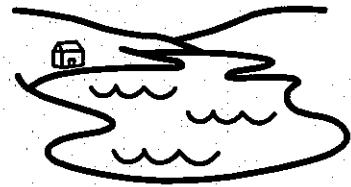
treasure



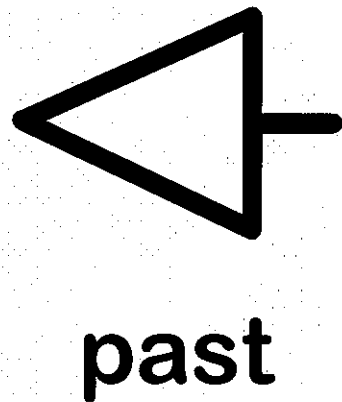
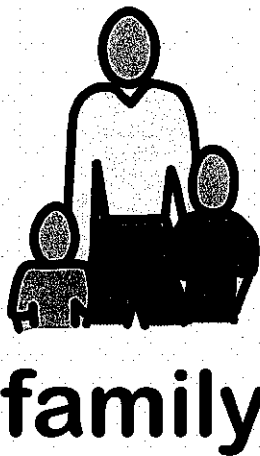
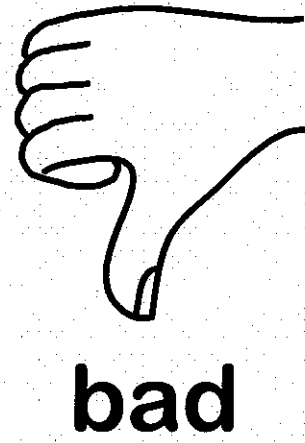
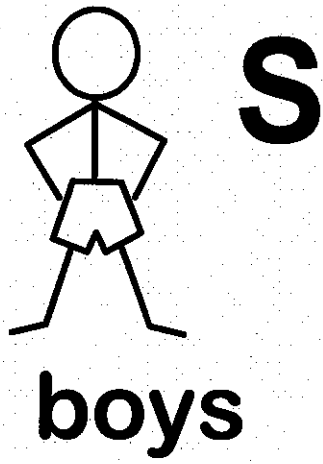
friends



dry

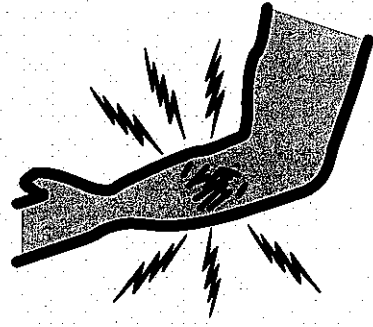


lake

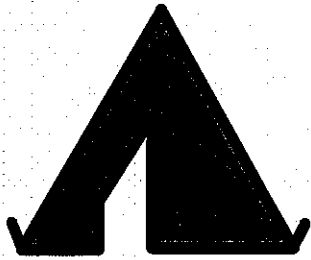




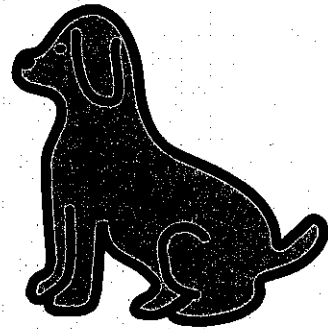
dig



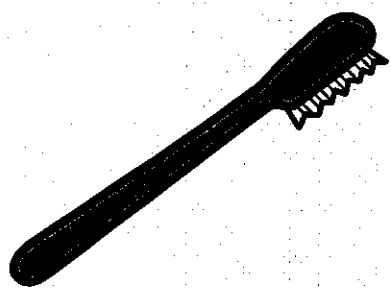
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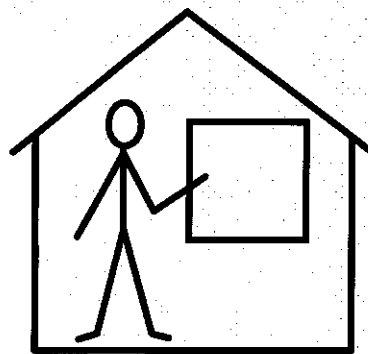
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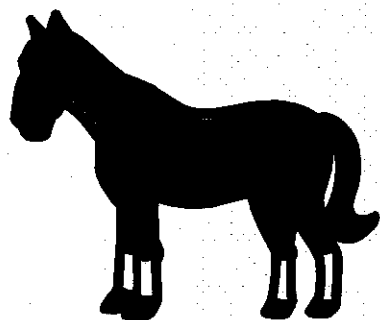
dog



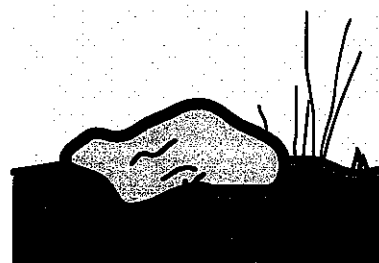
toothbrush



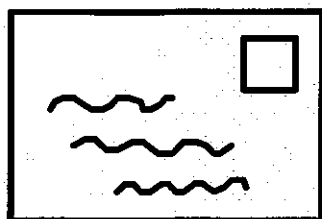
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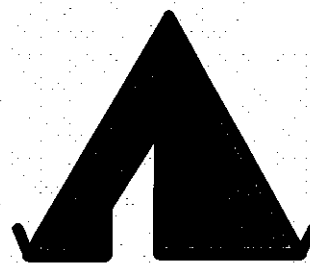
horse



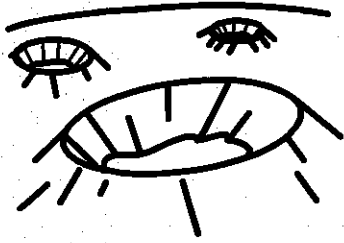
rock



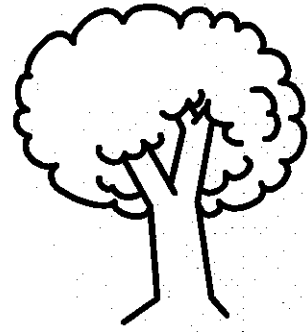
letter



camp



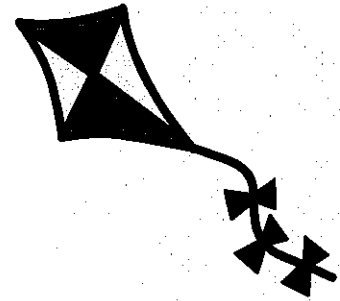
holes



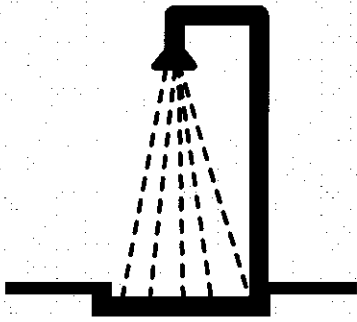
tree



stealing



kite



shower



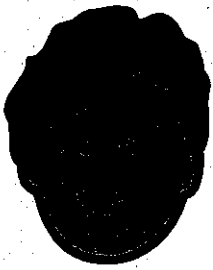
Stanley



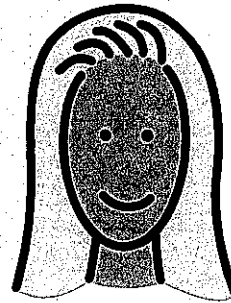
Judge



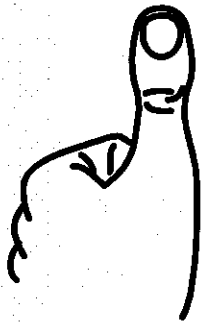
Great-Great-Grandfather



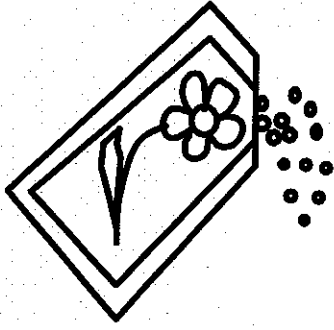
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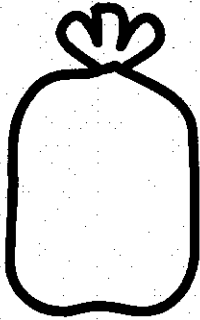
Kate Barlow



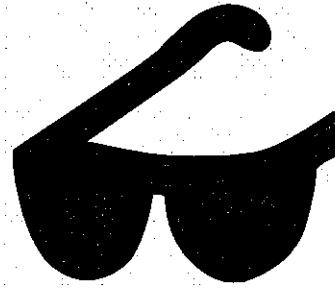
God's Thumb



sunflower seeds



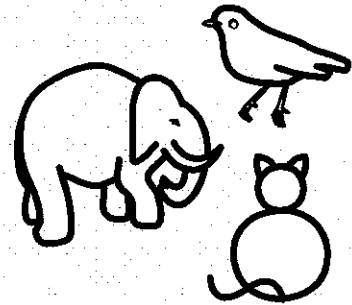
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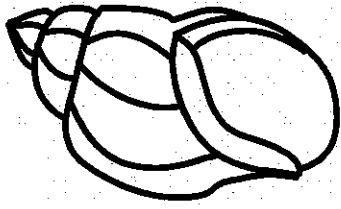
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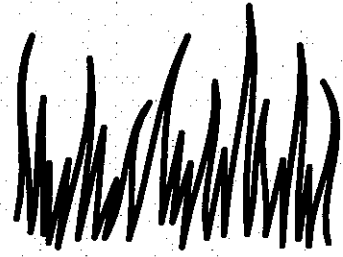
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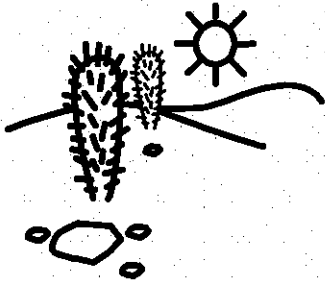
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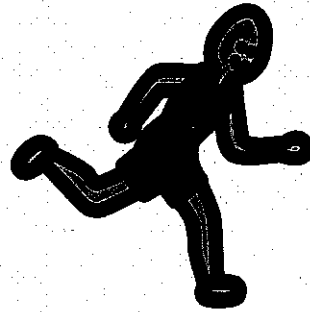
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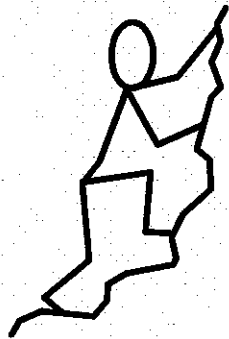
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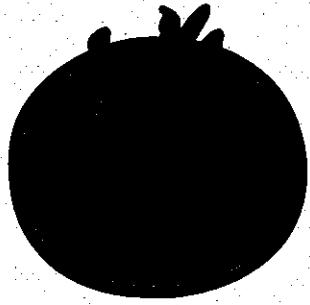
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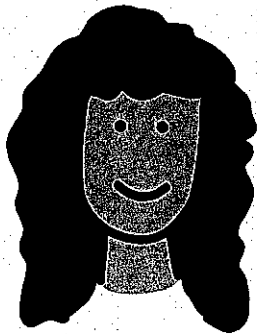
running



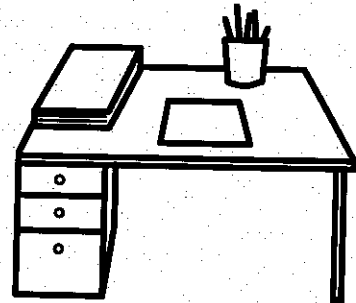
climb's mountain



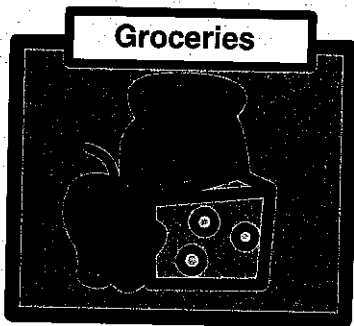
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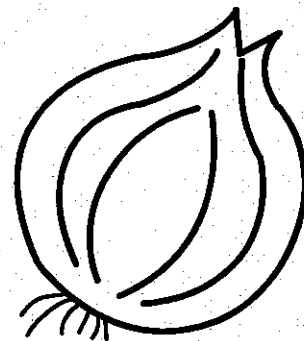
Mary Smith



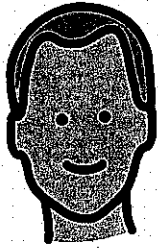
desk



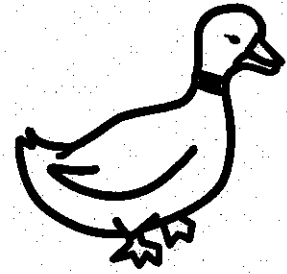
grocery store



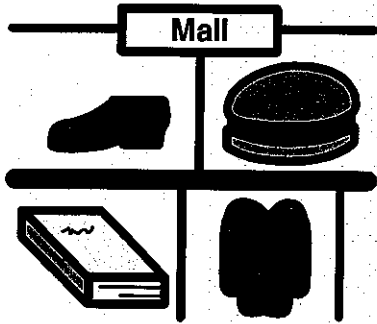
onion



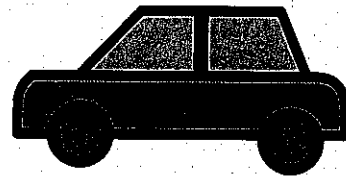
Trout Walker



duck



the mall



Lawyer's car