### THE NORTH FENCE
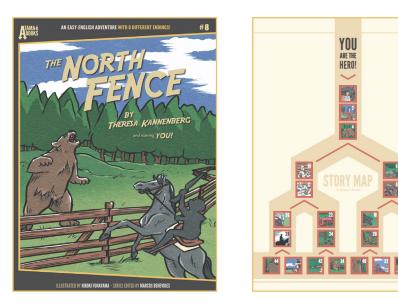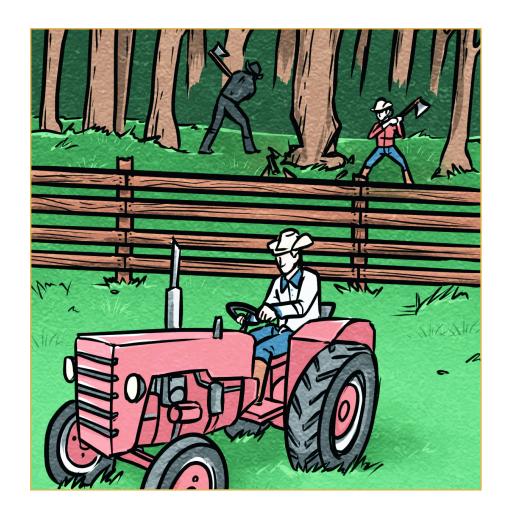
This story is about working on a ranch in Canada in the early 20th Century. You will help keep the ranch safe from wild animals.

Before you read, think about these questions:

**1. Have you ever been on a ranch or a farm?**

**2. Have you ever gone horse riding?**

**3. What do you know about bears?**

Look at the picture. Can you describe three things in it?

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**Learn these important words before you read the story.**

**barn** (n.) a large building on a farm, used for housing animals

**cub** (n.) a young bear (or young lion, wolf, fox, etc.)

**drop** (v.) to let go of something so that it falls

**farm** (n.) a large area of land used for growing food plants and animals

**fence** (n.) a barrier which encloses a place, to keep people and animals in or out; often made of wood

**fix** (v.) to make something which is broken work again; to repair

**handgun** (n.) a small gun which can be used with one hand

**hunt** (v.) to go looking for an animal, with the purpose of catching or killing it

**post** (n.) the vertical pieces of wood that support a fence

**ranch** (n.) a kind of farm that specializes in animals, such as cows and horses

**ranch hand** (n.) a person who works on a ranch as an employee

**rear up** (v.) when a four-legged animal stands up on its back legs

**roar** (n.) the sound an animal, such as a bear or a lion, makes when it is angry

**scare** (v.) to cause someone to feel fear; to make someone afraid

**shoot** (v.) to fire a gun

**shot** (n.) the sound made by a gun

**track** (n.) a mark made on the ground by an animal or person

**trap** (n.) something used to catch an animal

Next, read the story

## EXTENSION QUESTIONS

Reading a good story can make you think about new things. Talk about these questions with your friends or teacher, or find out more online. Not all questions have a clear or simple answer!

1. What do you know about Saskatchewan, Canada? How many people live there? Are there any large cities or other attractions?

2. This story takes place in 1910. That's a long time ago. What do you know about Canada and the USA in the early 1900s?

3. In the early 1900s, many people moved from England and other countries to live in Canada. Why do you think they moved?

4. In this story, Gilbert uses a motorized tractor to farm his land. When and where were the first tractors invented?

5. In the story, there is a large brown bear. What kinds of bears are there, and which ones are the most dangerous?

6. Bears usually live deep in the forest and avoid people. What are some reasons why bears might come into a farm or a ranch?

7. Bears are common in Canada, and they can be dangerous. What should you do if you meet a bear face to face?

8. In the story, the rancher eats bears. Have you ever eaten a wild or unusual animal? How was it?

9. In the story, the ranchers hunt the bear. Hunting is a popular sport in Canada. What do you think about sport hunting?

10. In the 1900s, most farmers built their own houses. Could you build a whole house by yourself? What would you need?

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1. Did you enjoy this story? Why or why not?

2. Who are the main characters? Can you describe them?

3. Where does the story take place? Can you describe it?

4. Which ending did you like the most? Why did you like it?

5. Which ending didn't you like? Why didn't you like it?

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