

DEER LAKE
NOVEL SERIES
TEACHERS' GUIDE

SANDRA APPLEBY

SUMMER OF CHANGE
HOW TO BE A FROG MILLIONAIRE
WHO IS MEL RANDALL, ANYWAY?
THE STALKER
STRANDED



VANWELL
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About This Series

The Deer Lake novel series follows the summer adventures of fourteen-year-old Mel Randall and Will Bergeron and their friends. Although the novels are written for grades five to six, they have a grade three reading level, which makes them ideal for students reading below their grade level.

This guide contains synopses of each novel, teaching suggestions and objectives, research activities, reading comprehension questions, word study and literacy activities, blackline masters, and answer keys.

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The Deer Lake Novel Series Teachers' Guide has been developed as a comprehensive Language Arts Unit encompassing objectives and skills in the areas of:

- **Writing** (overall writing, grammar, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary)
- **Reading** (reasoning and critical thinking, comprehension, language structures, vocabulary, conventions)
- **Oral and Visual Communication** (word usage, non-verbal communication, group skills, media communication skills)
- **Listening** (comprehension, focus, retention, repetition)

Students who are experiencing challenges with their language-based skills can benefit from any of the following program organization tips:

1. Allow students to build on their strengths gradually.
2. Encourage students set their own goals.
3. Expose students to high-quality literature.
4. Increase the time students spend reading in a supported and independent atmosphere.
5. Teach effective decoding and structuring strategies in their reading and writing.
6. Provide concise instructions with examples and clear expectations.
7. Maximize student independence.
8. Establish routines.
9. Establish and reward achievement of short term goals.
10. Create heterogeneous groupings, teaching and modeling group skills.
11. Use technology to support curriculum.
12. Help students get started.
13. Divide work into manageable tasks.
14. Showcase and celebrate completed work.

TIME LINES:

Depending on the structure of your school day, set aside one hour per day for six weeks or thirty seventy-five minute periods toward the Deer Lake Novel Study.

Begin each class with a twenty-minute period for students to read independently while you monitor and assist the progress of those students who need reinforcement of their reading skills. Follow the reading time with a ten to fifteen minute mini-lesson highlighting one of the objectives of the unit. Alternate the remaining twenty-five to forty minutes between individual novel activities (journal responses, questions, research, and extension) and overall novel series activities.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SUGGESTIONS:

Science: The life cycle of frogs; fresh water lake ecology

Art: The Group of Seven

Geography: Geology of the Canadian Shield, formation of lakes

Career Studies: Entrepreneurship

Outdoor Education: Canoeing, composting

History: The role of the canoe in Canadian history

STUDENT OBJECTIVES:

Writing:

- W1: Communicate ideas and information for a variety of purposes
- W2: Use writing for various purposes and in a range of contexts
- W3: Organize information to develop a central idea, using well-linked and well-developed paragraphs
- W4: Use a variety of sentence types, structures, and lengths
- W5: Produce pieces of writing using a variety of forms
- W6: Produce media texts using writing and materials from other media
- W7: Revise and edit work, focusing on content and elements of style, independently and in collaboration with others
- W8: Proofread and correct final drafts, focusing on grammar, punctuation, spelling, and conventions of style
- W9: Use and spell correctly the vocabulary appropriate for the students
- W10: Use correctly the conventions (spelling, grammar, punctuation) appropriate for the student's ability
- W11: Identify and name major parts of the sentence (subject, object, predicate)
- W12: Use a variety of sentence types (statements, exclamations, questions, commands) appropriately and effectively
- W13: Use periods consistently and appropriately
- W14: Spell a wide range of commonly used words correctly
- W15: Identify some generalizations about spelling and use them to spell unfamiliar words
- W16: Give evidence of an expanding vocabulary in their writing

Reading:

- R1: Read a variety of fiction and non-fiction materials for different purposes (novels, short stories, poetry, reports, articles)
- R2: Read independently, selecting appropriate reading strategies
- R3: Explain their interpretation of a written work, supporting it with evidence from the work and from their own knowledge and experience
- R4: Explain how various elements in a story function in relation to each other (for example, the ways in which setting and plot development are interrelated)
- R5: Make judgments and draw conclusions based on evidence found in the text
- R6: Clarify and develop their own opinions through discussion with others
- R7: Select appropriate reading strategies (skim text for specific information, record key points and organize them in a sequence)
- R8: Plan a research project and carry out the research
- R9: Use a variety of strategies to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words (use word-analysis techniques, research word origins and derivations, consult dictionaries)

Oral and Visual Communication:

- C1: Use instructions and explanations to plan and organize work
- C2: Ask questions and discuss different aspects of the text
- C3: Listen to and communicate related ideas, and narrate real and fictional events in a sequence
- C4: Contribute and work constructively in groups
- C5: Create a variety of media works
- C6: Regularly incorporate new vocabulary into discussions and presentations
- C7: Use comparisons to develop and clarify ideas
- C8: Identify some of the ways in which non-verbal communication techniques (tone of voice, body language, facial expressions) can affect audiences, and use these techniques in their own speech to arouse and maintain interest, and convince and persuade their listeners
- C9: Listen and respond constructively to alternate ideas or viewpoints
- C10: Express ideas and opinions confidently but without trying to dominate discussion
- C11: Describe the function of different elements in magazines and newspapers (headline, photograph, regular column, feature article, editorial)
- C12: Create a variety of media works (a class newspaper, video)

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

K.E. CALDER

1. *Where and when were you born?*

Toronto, Ontario, June 2, 1974.

2. *Where have you lived in your life?*

Schomberg, Alliston, Thornhill, Guelph, St. Catharines, and Toronto.

3. *What else have you written?*

I have written several non-fiction children's books, including "Figure Skating from A to Z" and "The Life of a Miner."

4. *Do you have any special connection to the topics in the novel?*

Yes. The novels are based on the Muskoka town where I spent my summers during my childhood.

5. *How did you get started writing?*

I always had an interest in books and writing growing up. After I graduated from university, I went to journalism school. I began working in publishing soon after that. I decided to write fiction for children and I'm enjoying the experience very much.

H.J. LEWIS

1. *Where and when were you born?*

St. Catharines, Ontario, November 16, 1971.

2. *Where have you lived in your life?*

St. Catharines and Guelph, Ontario. I also lived briefly in Taiwan and India.

3. *What else have you written?*

I have co-authored 3 non-fiction children's books. I also write poetry.

4. *Do you have any special connection to the topics in the novel?*

I can certainly relate to being a 13-year-old girl! My stories brought back a lot of memories about what it was like, and what it felt like, to be that age. As for the cottage connection, for a number of summers, my family spent one week at a cottage on Lake Huron. I also had two summers' experience working at a camp in Algonquin Park when I was a teenager. Many "pieces" of my books came from those experiences.

I can also relate to the Randall family's interests in things like vegetarianism, recycling, composting, and saving the Earth in general. These were (and still are) a big part of life for me.

5. *How did you get started writing?*

I have been writing for as long as I can remember. Even in elementary school, I was writing short stories and poems. I don't recall any specific event that triggered my interest; I just always had a fascination for the written word. I loved to read—I was constantly reading books. My interest in writing probably came out of that.

Other fun facts about H.J. Lewis:

I love everything about books. In addition to reading books for fun, I worked in a library and a couple of bookstores before I got into publishing. Now, for my career, I write books, edit them, and design them! I also design websites. When I'm not working or reading, I like to travel, work in my garden, sing and play drums, and hang out with my partner (a musician) and my cat.

SUMMER OF CHANGE BY H.J. LEWIS

NOVEL ACTIVITIES

NOVEL SUMMARY:

Mel Randall has spent all of her thirteen summers at her family cottage on Deer Lake with her father, her sixteen-year-old sister Lindsay and her seven-year-old sister Sara. This summer is different for Mel because her best cottage friend, Janine Kovac, has moved away. Even the old General Store in the town of Deer Lake has new owners. Mel is miserable. After the family arrives at the cottage, Mel sneaks into Janine's old cottage next door through an unlocked back window. She almost gets caught by the real estate agent who comes to show the property to some people who are interested in buying it. Cottage life progresses as usual with swimming, canoeing, and barbecues. Everything is the same—except Janine isn't there. Mr. Randall tries to distract Mel from her missing friend by taking her into the town of Deer Lake. But this only brings more bad news as Kyle Jordan, the fourteen-year-old boy who works at his family's store, The Trading Post, tells Mel and her father that Kovac's cottage has been bought by the rich Standing family. Mel's hopes of Janine moving back are ruined. Then, one night, Mel notices a light coming from the old Miller place, which has been abandoned for years. The next day, she decides to make her own fun by investigating the "haunted" Miller cottage. She barely makes it to the Miller's place before someone else arrives. She climbs up into the tree fort near the old house. Mel is convinced from her vantage point in the tree that the new arrivals are murderers. When someone starts to climb up into the tree fort, Mel stomps on his fingers. One sprained ankle, a lot of questions, and an afternoon of cards later, Mel has made a new friend, Ian Suwan. During one conversation, Mel tells Ian about her sister Lindsay's crush on the new boy who works at the General Store. Later, she discovers that Ian is the same boy. Mel worries that she will lose her new friend if he becomes interested in Lindsay. Although Lindsay and Ian do date, Ian introduces Mel to his younger sister, Allison. She is Mel's age and she loves canoeing, just like Mel.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES:

1. Play Gin Rummy or any card game.
2. Watch a movie about canoeing. ("Path of the Paddle"—Bill Mason)

JOURNAL ENTRY: [W1, W2]

Possible journal topics include:

1. In what ways do you live simply like the Randalls in order to help conserve the planet Earth?
2. Have you ever been somewhere without any friends? How did you feel? How did you amuse yourself?

LITERARY CONCEPT: [R1, R3, R6]

1. Theme: The theme of a story is the underlying message or concept the author is attempting to get across to the reader. Sometimes there is more than one theme in a novel. What are some of the possible themes in the novel *Summer of Change*? How is the theme developed in a story?

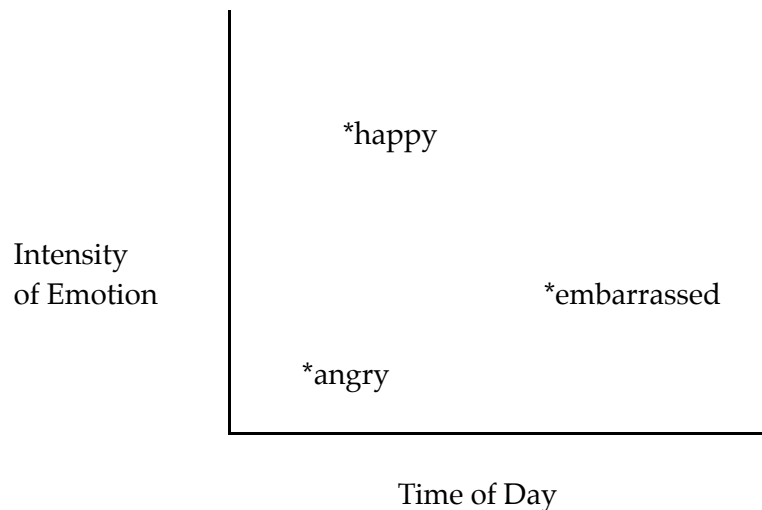
RESEARCH TOPICS: [R8]

1. Ian Suwan is from Thailand. Research and find out where this country is located and find ten interesting facts about the country. Create a poster to advertise Ian's homeland to the class.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES: [C1, C2]

Mel experiences many different emotions in Chapter 18. Sometimes her feelings are very strong. Have students make a list of the different emotions Mel feels (for example, happy, nervous, worried, angry, embarrassed, etc.). Ask them to draw a point graph to show the intensity of Mel's feelings. Put "Time of Day" on one axis and "Intensity of Emotion" on the other axis. Some feelings may appear on the graph more than once, with different levels of intensity. Students may choose whatever emotions they recognize in the character. This activity may lead to an interesting discussion about emotions and how people express their feelings.

Example:



QUESTIONS: [W4, W12, R3, C2]

1. What is different this summer at Deer Lake?
2. Where is the Randall cottage on the lake?
3. When does Mel meet Ian?
4. Why is Mel disappointed that Lindsay likes Ian?
5. Why does Mel think that Ian and his Mom are murderers?
6. How does the author keep us guessing in this novel?
7. Explain the ways that Mel shows her disappointment that Janine has moved away.

HOW TO BE A FROG MILLIONAIRE

BY K.E. CALDER

NOVEL ACTIVITIES

NOVEL SUMMARY:

Will Bergeron is spending the summer at Deer Lake with his grandma and twin eleven-year-old cousins, Benny and Joey. Will isn't looking forward to the summer. All of his friends are in the city earning money at summer jobs and his mother and grandmother won't even let him find a part-time job in Deer Lake. The twins play practical jokes on Will constantly, such as when Benny lets his artificial arm come off in Will's handshake and poking Will's underwear through holes in the bedroom wall. Will thinks his grandma is a little eccentric and between her and his two awful cousins, he doesn't know how he'll make it through the summer. Then Will walks into town and overhears the bait shop man saying that he would pay money for frogs. So Will decides to catch frogs and sell them to the bait shop. Will has to keep his summer job a secret from his grandma. In the meantime, Will meets a new friend in town, Kyle Jordan. Kyle works at his family's store, The Trading Post. Kyle is the same age as Will and he's really into wakeboarding. Will tries wakeboarding, but decides he'd rather stick to waterskiing, something he's done before.

Mr. Randall, the father of three girls aged seven, thirteen, and sixteen, owns the cottage a few doors down from Will's grandma. Mr. Randall invites Will to come by and hang out with his daughters, but Will is too shy. Mel Randall witnesses Will almost being run over by a motorboat. Then Lindsay Randall catches Will up to his thighs in mud during a frog-catching escapade. All in all, Will is too embarrassed to talk to the Randall sisters.

One night, Will goes to see a movie with Kyle at the Deer Lake Community Center. Afterward, Will decides to walk back to the cottage in the dark. Along the way, he finds a marsh full of frogs and decides to try to catch some of them. He ends up losing his balance and falling down in the dark marsh. He panics when the frogs start jumping all over him and stumbles back to the main road. His grandma is angry when she finds him covered in mud.

Will's booming frog-catching business does not last long. The man at the bait shop informs Will that the frogs need to repopulate, so he has to stop catching them. Will decides he doesn't really want a wakeboard any more. It turns out Grandma has known all along about his part-time job. Will's punishment for deceiving his grandma is to stay home with the twins while she goes out one evening. Despite their practical jokes, Will uses his smarts to get the upper hand eventually.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY: [R6, C9]

Ask students what kinds of jobs teenagers do to make money. Record all the answers on the chalkboard. Explain the concept of an entrepreneur. Discuss the kinds of businesses that the students could start up to make their own spending money.

JOURNAL ENTRY: [W1, W2]

Where do you go when you need to get away and be alone?

LITERARY CONCEPT: [R3, R4, R5]

Point of View: A point of view is a person's opinion. Another word for point of view is perspective. For example, if a teacher wants to know what has happened between two people having a conflict, he or she may ask to hear each person's point of view. The Deer Lake novel series has many novels within it, and each story is told from a different point of view. From whose point of view is *How to be a Frog Millionaire* told?

Take an incident in the novel and re-tell the incident from another character's point of view. For example, re-tell the incident where the twins came to have the game boy from Benny's point of view (chapter 16).

RESEARCH TOPIC: [R8]

Do you need a fishing license where you live in order to fish? If not, where is the closest place for you to go fishing and how do you get a license to fish there? Name the different kinds of bait you can use for fishing in your area.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY: [MATH, W12, W9, W5]

1. At .75 cents a frog, how many frogs would Will have to catch in order to make a million dollars?
2. Imperative writing gives instructions about how to do something. Write an imperative paragraph on one of the following topics:
 - How to Waterski
 - How to Make Macaroni and Cheese
 - How to Get to School From My House
 - A topic of the student's choosing

QUESTIONS: [R5, C2, W2]

1. Where does Will go to get away from the twins?
2. What is new at the cottage?
3. How does Will get down the stairs without making any noise?
4. What is the trick Will discovered for catching frogs?
5. Why is Will embarrassed to call on the Randall family?
6. Why do you wear a wet suit when you are wakeboarding?
7. When did Will start to feel like the summer might be okay? Who helps Will feel this way?
8. Describe one of the practical jokes Benny and Joey play on Will.

WHO IS MEL RANDALL, ANYWAY?

BY H.J. LEWIS

NOVEL ACTIVITIES

NOVEL SUMMARY:

Mel Randall is spending the summer at her cottage on Deer Lake with her dad, her older sister Lindsay, and her younger sister Sara. Mel has a new friend, Allison, whom she is happy to meet this summer because her old best friend and next-door neighbor, Janine, has moved away. Allison and Mel meet the new next-door neighbors, Diana and Ted Standing. Diana is a fashion-conscious fourteen-year-old. Diana's older brother, Ted, is very cute. Although Mel has never had a boyfriend before, she falls for him right away. Ted flirts with Mel, so it seems he feels the same way. Diana tells Mel that she will never get a boyfriend if she doesn't change her appearance. She also tells Mel that she should play hard to get in order to attract Ted. Diana gives Mel a makeover with new clothes and makeup. The "new Mel" really impresses Ted. Mel agrees to go for a speedboat ride with Ted, but she is embarrassed and angry when he almost runs over Will Bergeron, who is paddling by in a canoe. However, she forgets these feelings as soon as Ted turns his green eyes and beautiful smile on her. She agrees to go see a movie with him at the Community Center the next Friday night. Mel is nervous and self-conscious during the movie. She and Ted hold hands for the first time and it feels good.

The next day, Mel asks Lindsay for advice about Ted. Later, when Ted comes over to visit, Mel feels disappointed and confused about her feelings for him. Nevertheless, she accepts his invitation to come over and watch a movie at his cottage. That night, they have their first kiss in the kitchen. Mel is still unsure about Ted, but an incident with a raccoon finally convinces Mel that she and Ted are not meant to be together.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY: [C4, C1]

Make hemp bracelets or necklaces with the class.

JOURNAL ENTRY: [W1, W2]

What advice does Allison give to Mel about relationships? (pg.63) Do you agree or disagree with Allison? Discuss your opinion.

LITERARY CONCEPT: [R4]

The setting of a story or novel is the place and time in which the story happens. Sometimes a story has more than one setting. Draw a map giving all of the information you can about the setting of *Who is Mel Randall, Anyway?*

RESEARCH TOPICS: [R8, C7]

1. What are the parts of a canoe? Research this topic and then either draw or make a model. Label each part of the canoe.
2. What are the boating safety rules? Who has the right of way, a canoe or a speedboat? For what boats do you need a boating license? How do you get one? Present your findings to the class.
3. What is in a healthy lake?

EXTENSION: [C8]

How do the characters in this novel use non-verbal communication? (p.20, p.24, p.26, p.31, p.41, p.43, p.53, p.62, p.67, p.82) Make a dictionary of body language appropriate for school. Are there any cultural differences in body language that you can learn about by asking someone in your class?

QUESTIONS: [W1, R5, C10]

1. Who is Mel Randall, anyway?
2. Where and when is the setting of this novel?
3. Describe Diana's cottage.
4. Why does Diana hide her half-eaten chicken wrap under the bed when her mother came in?
5. Mel daydreams about Ted going canoeing. Does he seem like the type of person who would enjoy canoeing? Why?
6. Which boy does Allison like? Which boy does Lindsay like? Which boy does Mel like?
7. List all of the things Mel likes and dislikes about Ted.
8. Why does Mel decide that she doesn't want to date Ted after all?

THE STALKER BY K.E. CALDER

NOVEL ACTIVITIES

NOVEL SUMMARY:

Will, who is fourteen years old, and his eleven-year-old twin cousins, Benny and Joey, are spending the summer at their grandma's cottage on Deer Lake. One night, Grandma tells them a spooky story about the disappearance of Beatrice Jones, the old woman who sold the cottage to Grandma over forty years ago.

So far this summer, Will has started and finished his first small business, supplying frogs to a bait shop in the town of Deer Lake. He also hangs out with his new friend, Kyle Jordan. Will could hang out with the Randall sisters, whose cottage is nearby, but he isn't very good at talking to girls. One day, Will accidentally drops his game boy in the lake. Thinking that it is ruined, he gives it to Benny and Joey. Later, he is angry to find out the twins have fixed it and now think it belongs to them.

Will finds a set of shiny keys on the bottom of the lake that fit the door to Grandma's cottage. He thinks that they must have belonged to Beatrice Jones, the old woman who disappeared from Deer Lake. Will suspects the grumpy old neighbor, Booker, of murdering Beatrice Jones and sets out to prove his theory correct. Will uses the set of keys to break into Booker's garage, where he finds a bag that he believes contains the body of Beatrice Jones. It turns out to be full of old hockey cards, but Will is still convinced that Booker is up to no good. He begins to follow Booker and spy on him wherever he goes in order to gather evidence to support his murder theory. Will is certain that Booker is up to no good when he sees the older man outside in the middle of the night with a flashlight. Finally, Booker catches Will snooping around and takes him back to Grandma. Soon, everything is sorted out, including the "disappearance" of Beatrice Jones, who had simply gone to live in a nursing home.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY: [R4, R5, R6, R7]

Watch a mystery movie. Discuss how the mystery is solved. Identify the clues throughout the story.

JOURNAL ENTRY: [W1, W2]

Have you ever been frightened? Explain.

LITERARY CONCEPT: [R4, R5]

Suspense or tension in a story makes the reader want to read on. Authors leave clues in order to create that suspense. In *The Stalker*, K.E. Calder has dropped many clues for the reader.

Draw a chart on the chalkboard with three headings like the one below. Ask students to name the clues in the novel. For each clue, fill in Will's explanation and the actual explanation. For the complete chart, see Answer Key, page 32.)

The Clue	Will's Explanation	Actual Explanation
A set of keys in the lake	The keys fit Grandma's cottage so Booker must have used them to get in and murder Beatrice Jones	The keys are a spare set that Booker kept for Beatrice Jones when she was his neighbor many years ago
A bag that contains something big and bulky in Booker's garage	The bag contains Beatrice Jones' body	The bag contains Booker's collection of old hockey cards
Booker goes out snorkeling every day in front of his cottage	Booker is always looking for the body of Beatrice Jones, buried in a chest at the bottom of the lake	Booker is looking for his lost keys, which fell out of his fishing tackle box recently
Booker buys axe and rope	Booker is planning his next murder	Booker is setting a trap for some raccoons that keep getting into his garage

RESEARCH TOPICS: [R8]

Will does not like being called Willy. Why do you think names are important? What does your name mean? Research ten of the names from your class and present the origin and meaning of each name.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES: [W3, W4, W7, W5, W10, W8]

1. At the beginning of *The Stalker*, Grandma tells a scary story that makes Will's imagination run wild. Finish the story that Booker begins on the last page of this novel (p.106).
2. Write a scary story as a class. Begin the story with one sentence. Go around the class and add one sentence from each student until the story is finished.
3. Find a picture in a book or a magazine or bring a photo from home. Create a personal scary story based on one of the pictures. Share it with a friend.
4. Break into small groups and create a scary story. Take turns telling the same story from different points of view: an old lady, a fifteen-year-old surfer dude, a middle-aged man. Choose one story to share with the whole class.

QUESTIONS: [R7, R6, R5]

1. What is the same and what is different between a summer cottage and a home in the city or country? (compare and contrast)
2. How does the author make the story suspenseful?
3. How does Will feel after he finds what he thinks is the body?
4. Who does Will meet at Wakefest? How does he feel about talking to the girls?
5. How does Grandma prove to Will that it wasn't Booker who broke into their cottage?
6. What clues does Will leave behind that identify him as Booker's spy?
7. When does Will decide that Booker must be a murderer?
8. Where does Booker keep his spare keys hidden?

STRANDED BY K.E. CALDER

NOVEL ACTIVITIES

NOVEL SUMMARY:

Fourteen-year-old Will Bergeron has been staying at his grandma's cottage with his eleven-year-old twin cousins. Now the twins have gone back to the city for summer school. When his grandma goes back to the city with them, Will is stranded at the Randalls' cottage with Mr. Randall and his three daughters: Lindsay, Mel, and Sara who are sixteen, thirteen, and seven years old respectively. Will finds himself in embarrassing situations at the Randalls' cottage, particularly because there is no lock on the bathroom door. Will, Mel, and Mel's friend Allison catch a ride into town with Allison's brother Ian, who is dating Lindsay Randall. Along the way, they pick up Kyle Jordan at his family's store, The Trading Post. Kyle is fourteen and the best wakeboarder in Deer Lake. Both Lindsay and Ian have jobs in the town of Deer Lake for the summer so they drop the others off at the ice cream shop.

Mel, Will, Allison, and Kyle run into Diana and Ted Standing, who live in the cottage next door to the Randalls. Mel used to have a crush on Ted, but she realized they didn't have much in common. All six of them head off to "The Trestle," a train bridge over a deep river. The boys plan to jump off the bridge into the river below. Only Kyle has done it before. After a lot of pressure, all three boys jump off. Will jumps off just in time to avoid a train coming across the tracks. After this, chemistry grows between Will and Mel.

Mr. Randall enlists Will and Sara to help prepare a surprise birthday party for Mel. Will's job is to buy decorations and then, on the day of the party, he also needs to distract Mel while everyone decorates the cottage. Mel, Will, Allison and Kyle decide to go on a day-long canoe trip. It turns into quite an adventure when they get lost in the fog on the way home. With a little help from Mr. Randall and the use of Ted Standing's speedboat, they all make it back in time for the surprise birthday party. Right before the party, Mel gives Will a hemp necklace she has made for him. She also kisses him, which surprises and pleases Will.

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITY: [C10, C9, C7, C3]

Show a video on bullying and have students identify the various overt and covert ways that bullying occurs in their school. After students have read the novel, discuss the ways in which characters were bullied in the story.

JOURNAL ENTRY: [W1, W2]

Have you ever felt pressure from someone who wanted you to do something you didn't want to do? Explain how you were pressured. What did you choose to do?

LITERARY CONCEPT: [R4, R5]

The plot is the events of a story. It consists of:

1. The introduction where the reader learns about the setting, characters, and basic story.
2. The rising action is the part where the characters encounter challenges, problems, or complications.
3. The climax occurs when the challenges, problems, or complications are resolved.
4. The denouement, which is also called the falling action, is the part where the author concludes the plot. From here, the story ends or leads into the next plot cycle.

In some books, the story may go through this cycle more than once.

Outline the events of *Stranded* that help create the plot. This novel has more than one cycle of rising action, climax, and falling action in its plot. Can you identify the different cycles?

RESEARCH TOPICS: [R8]

1. What is portaging? Research this topic using books or Internet sites and write a paragraph explaining how to do this activity.
2. What is meant by catch-and-release in fishing?

EXTENSION: [W1, W5]

Write a poem about cottage life.

QUESTIONS: [W12, C3, R6]

1. How many people in your class are vegetarians? Vegans? "Meatatarians"? What is the proper name for a "meatatarian"?
2. Make a list of all of the things a "perfect gentleman" would do.
3. What is a "P.D.A."?
4. How does Will get pressured into jumping off The Trestle?
5. What is a "bat hat"?
6. Why does Mel always get embarrassed around Will?
7. Where do Mel, Allison, Will, and Kyle go on their canoe adventure?
8. How does Lindsay give away the surprise party for Mel?

DEER LAKE SERIES ACTIVITIES

Have students create a folder in which they can organize their activities, charts, and other work for the Deer Lake novel study.

The following activities can be completed as a whole or done on an individual basis. There are some specific reading requirements for Activity One. Please see Teacher's Notes for this activity.

ACTIVITY ONE

JIGSAW CHARACTER SKETCH [W1-5, W9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16]

Materials Needed:

- One double-sided photocopy of character chart per student
- Chart paper, markers, and masking tape

Teacher's Notes:

1. This activity is most effective when students have completed each of the novels in the Deer Lake series. However, if students have not read all of the novels or have completed only one, the activity is easily adapted to a variety of situations.
2. Divide the class into five groups: A, B, C, D, and E. Each group will focus on one novel in the series.
3. As a class, brainstorm adjectives to describe people. Write all the answers on the chalkboard or chart paper. Divide the answers into two lists: physical traits and personality traits. Leave this chart posted in the room where students may refer to it later for ideas.
4. Discuss as a class: "How you know what your friends are like?" (By what they do; by what they say; by what others say about them; how they appear). Discuss linking these two concepts. For example: I am athletic because I exercise every day. Fred is generous because he shares his lunch with me if I forget mine.
5. Distribute the character chart (page 19) and have students complete it as they read. Assign one entry per reading period. All groups will be reporting on Mel, Will, Kyle, Lindsay, Ian, and Allison, but there will be limited information available for some characters, such as Allison in *Summer of Change*.
6. Have students meet in their groups (A, B, C, D, and E) one period per week to discuss information they have found and to complete the character chart. Students may also take this time together to work on other novel activities.
7. Once the entire time period for reading the first novel has been completed, re-organize students into five new groups so that each of the letters (A, B, C, D, and E) are represented in each group.
8. Beginning with group A, have each group share the traits they have chosen for each character.
9. Have students complete a character sketch of one character based on the information from their chart and using the format outlined in the Character Sketch Map. (page 23)
10. You may modify this activity by assigning one character per group to track throughout the entire novel series.

ACTIVITY TWO

TEEN MAGAZINE [C12, C11, W1-10]

Materials Needed:

- A variety of magazines
- Scissors, glue sticks, and writing materials (markers, pencil crayons)

Teacher's Notes:

1. This activity requires students to work in groups of 3 to 5 people.
2. Each group is responsible for creating their own version of a teen magazine called "What's Up Deer Lake" (or another title of their choice).
3. Have a variety of teen magazines available for students to browse. Discuss the different parts of a magazine and then have students find examples of each part (advice column, feature article, editorial).
4. As a class, brainstorm ideas for potential stories for "What's Up Deer Lake." (examples: teen advice column – Ask Will/Mel; feature article—Wakefest; editorial—Declining Frog Population on Deer Lake)
5. Each member of the group is responsible for writing his/her own article and discussing the articles with other group members.
6. Each group will create a magazine cover using skills (cut and paste, computer graphics) appropriate to their level.
7. The final product may be shared with the entire class or added to a reading nook for students to browse during reading time.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1. Imagine that in twenty years, the characters of the Deer Lake series have a reunion. Write a newspaper article describing the event.
2. Write a book report for one of the novels in the series. Include information under the following headings: About The Author, Plot, Setting, Theme, Character Sketches, My Opinion.
3. Place the names of all of the characters in a hat. Draw two names from the hat. Write a conversation that might occur between those two characters.
4. Sentence Scrambling: Use vocabulary cards to create a variety of sentences. Make cue cards using recipe cards or plain paper. Write one word on each card. Add prepositions, conjunctions, and punctuation as well. Have students create a variety of sentences using the vocabulary.

Note: For more activities, please visit www.tealeafpress.com

BLACKLINE MASTERS

JIGSAW CHARACTER CHART

There are two ways of identifying a person;

1. Physical appearance: Is the person tall or short? A boy or a girl? What colour is his/her hair? What colour are his/her eyes? What if he/she has an identical twin?
2. Personality: Is he/she grumpy, cheerful, generous, lazy, angry, funny?

Character traits help us identify people. Everyone has many different traits. A person does not have to show the same traits all of the time. Traits just tell us about one part of a person's personality.

Use the chart below to identify the various characters in the Deer Lake novel series. Be sure to include your answer to "How you know this?" for each characteristic you choose.

Character's Name	Trait	How do you know this?	Proof		
Example: Mel Randall	Brown, shoulder-length hair	The author describes Mel	<i>Summer of Change</i> p.8: "Mel fluffed her own shoulder-length brown hair, teasing her sister."		

JIGSAW CHARACTER CHART

Proof					
How do you know this?					
Trait					
Character's Name					

CHARACTER SKETCH MAP

PART 1

A character sketch is a *written* description of what a person is like. This includes both physical traits and personality traits. Use the following map to build your character sketch.

Name of Character: (1) _____

Physical Trait: (2) _____

How do you know? (3) _____

Proof (4) _____

Physical Trait: (5) _____

How do you know? (6) _____

Proof (7) _____

Personality Trait: (8) _____

How do you know (9) _____

Proof (10) _____

Personality Trait: (11) _____

How do you know? (12) _____

Proof (13) _____

Personality Trait: (14) _____

How do you know? (15) _____

Proof (16) _____

PART 2: Fill in the blanks below with the words written on the matching numbered line in Part 1.

The character (1)_____ from the novel series Deer Lake is physically (2)_____ and (5)_____. His/her personality can be described as (8) _____, (11)_____, and (14)_____. I (like/dislike) this character because _____.

Physically, (1)_____ is (2)_____. We know this because (3)_____. This happens in the novel on page number _____, when (4)_____. (2)_____ describes (1)_____’s appearance.

(1)_____ looks (5) _____. We know this because (6)_____. This happens in the novel on page number _____ when (7)_____. (1)_____ also appears (5)_____.

(1)_____’s personality is (8)_____. We know this because (9)_____. This happens in the novel on page number _____ when (10)_____. (8)_____ describes (1)_____’s personality.

(1)_____’s personality is also (11)_____. We know this because (12)_____. This happens in the novel on page number _____, when (13)_____. (11)_____ describes (1)_____’s personality.

(1)_____ also has a (14) _____ personality. We know this because (15)_____. This happens on page number _____ when (16)_____. (1)_____’s personality can be described as (14)_____.

The character (1)_____ from the novel series Deer Lake has many traits that help identify him/her. He/she is (8)_____, (11)_____ and (14)_____. We also know that physically he/she is (2)_____ and (5)_____. Based on his/her actions, I think that I (could/could not) be friends with (1)_____. I think this character was a (good/bad) character because _____.

Re-write your seven-paragraph character sketch. Add any other information that you think helps to tell the reader about the character you have chosen. Check your work for spelling, punctuation, and capitals.

CHARACTER SKETCH ASSESSMENT TOOL

Level	4	3	2	1	R extra help needed	comments
Objective: Student demonstrates the use of.....						
Capitals for: names, sentences and titles	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Occasionally		
Organization skills in their writing (eg. work dated, titled, student's name, organized neatly)	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Occasionally		
Punctuation in their writing; periods, commas, quotation marks.	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Occasionally		
Student demonstrates the use of paragraph Structure including topic sentence, body and concluding sentence.	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Occasionally		

Other Objectives:

DEER LAKE WORD SEARCH

Find the words from the vocabulary list below. Be careful and check to make sure each word is spelled correctly!

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

aloe vera
 antlers
 artificial
 balloon
 bikini
 binoculars
 blond
 bracelet
 buoy
 cannonball
 canoe
 cereal
 compost

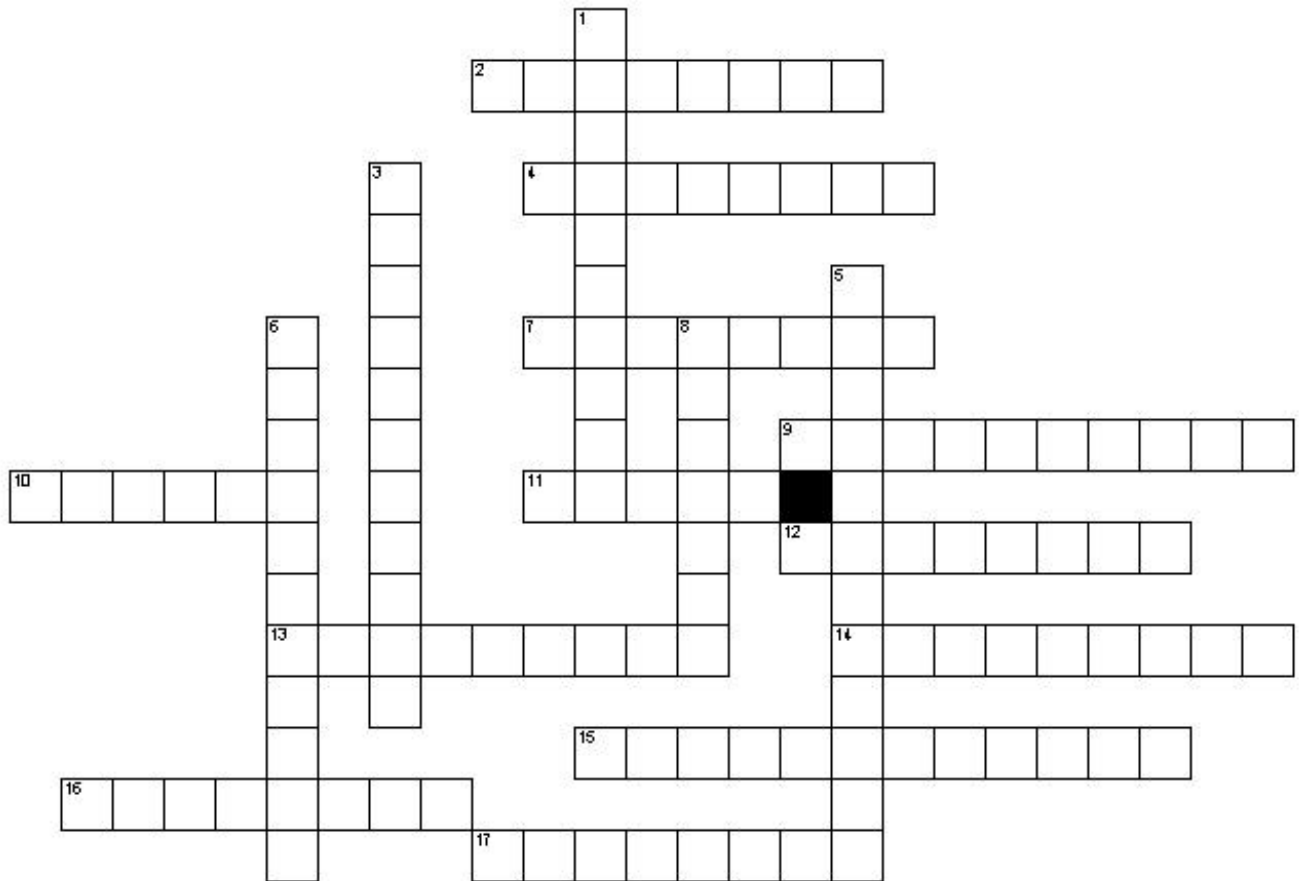
cottage
 customer
 entrepreneur
 groceries
 hemp
 Jet Ski
 jukebox
 ledge
 lillydipper
 lure
 macaroni
 makeover
 mascara

minnow
 Monopoly
 muumuu
 picnic
 portage
 prosthetic
 razor
 recorder
 sculpture
 snorkel
 speedboat
 spying
 stalker

stranded
 sunblock
 surf
 swamp
 tackle
 trout
 vampire
 vegetarian
 wakeboard
 waterski
 wet suit

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

SUMMER OF CHANGE



DOWN

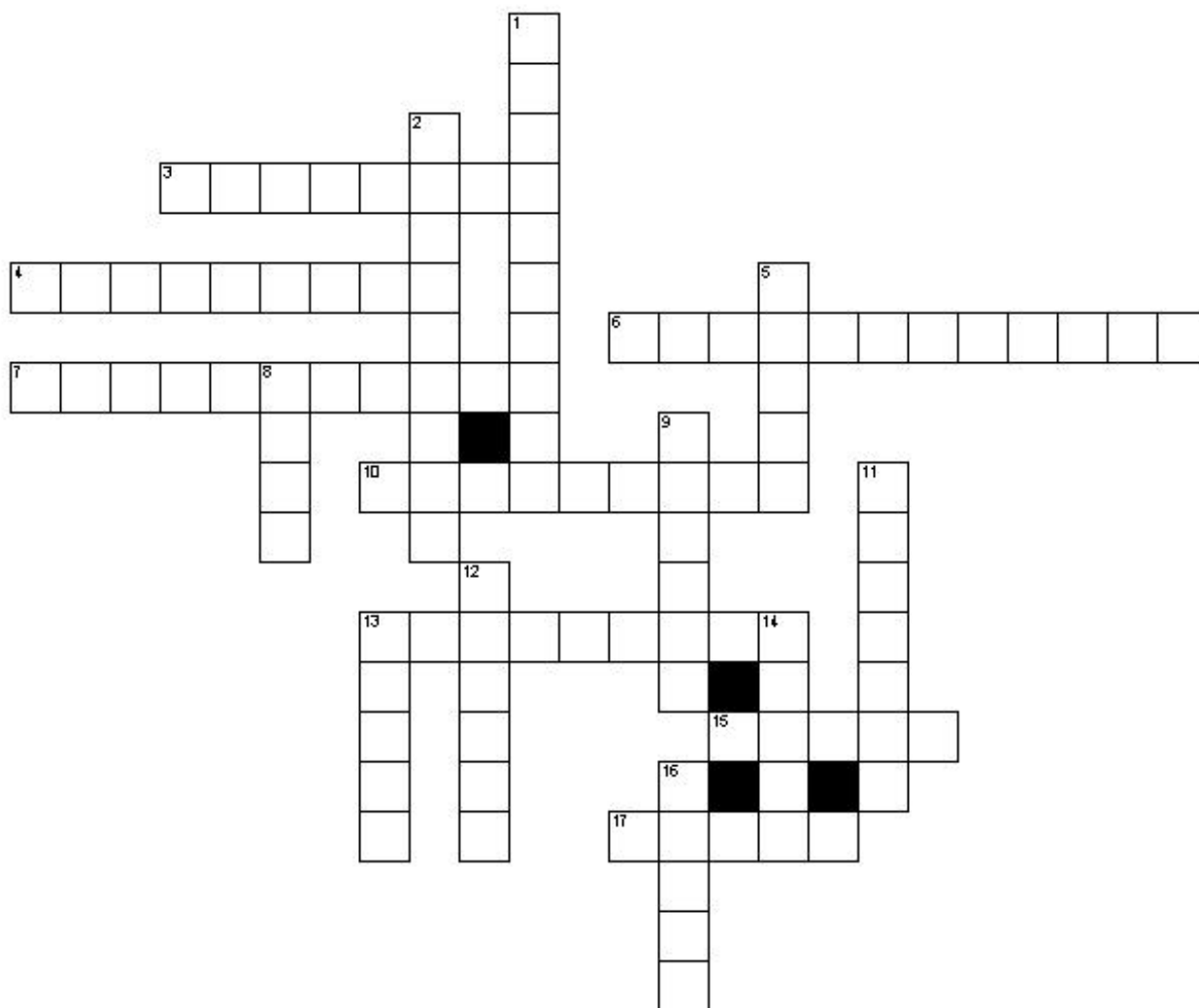
1. Mel's best friend, Janine, has moved to this U.S. state
3. A nickname for a person who paddles a canoe poorly
5. Lindsay and her friends make many trips to this place to buy ice cream and flirt with the boy who works there (two words)
6. Mel's favorite ice cream flavor (two words)
8. A mixture of rotted plants and vegetables that is used to help plants grow

ACROSS

2. Ian Suwan's father is from this country located in Asia
4. A card game played by two people (two words)
7. Jewelry worn on the wrist
9. A person who does not eat meat
10. The Randall cottage is at the end of _____ Road
11. Ian Suwan's dog's name
12. Mel stomps on this boy's hand and knocks him out of a tree (two words)
13. Mel is reading this book (two words)
14. A card game played alone
15. Kyle Jordan's favorite sport
16. A type of bag carried on the back
17. The best lake for canoeing, according to Mel (two words)

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

HOW TO BE A FROG MILLIONAIRE



DOWN

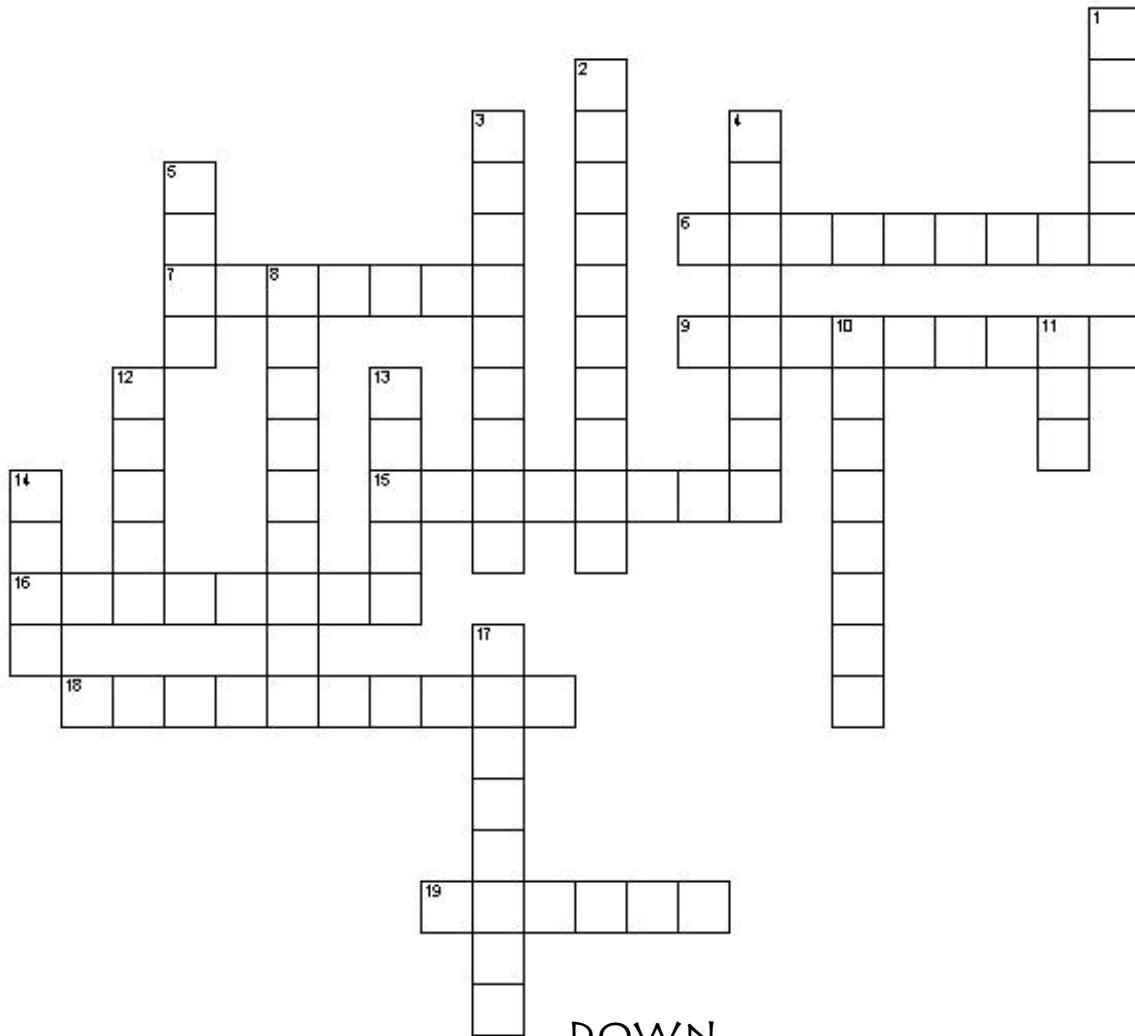
1. A false body part
2. Will is saving his money to buy one of these
5. Will catches _____ and sells them to Bud's Bait
8. The last time Will visited Deer Lake, he was _____ years old
9. A small fish used for bait
11. Will is embarrassed when he sees Mel and Lindsay _____ at the movie
12. A food eaten with milk at breakfast
13. A wetland covered in water and plants
14. Will's cousins, Benny and Joey, are identical _____
16. A light, narrow boat

ACROSS

3. Will and Kyle go to the Community Center to see this movie (two words)
4. Kyle and Will jump off the roof of Kyle's _____
6. Someone who starts a business
7. Kyle's parents own this business in the town of Deer Lake (two words)
10. Items of food from a store
13. Ted Standing nearly hits Will's canoe with his _____
15. Will doesn't like this nickname
17. True or false: Will likes wakeboarding

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

WHO IS MEL RANDALL, ANYWAY?



ACROSS

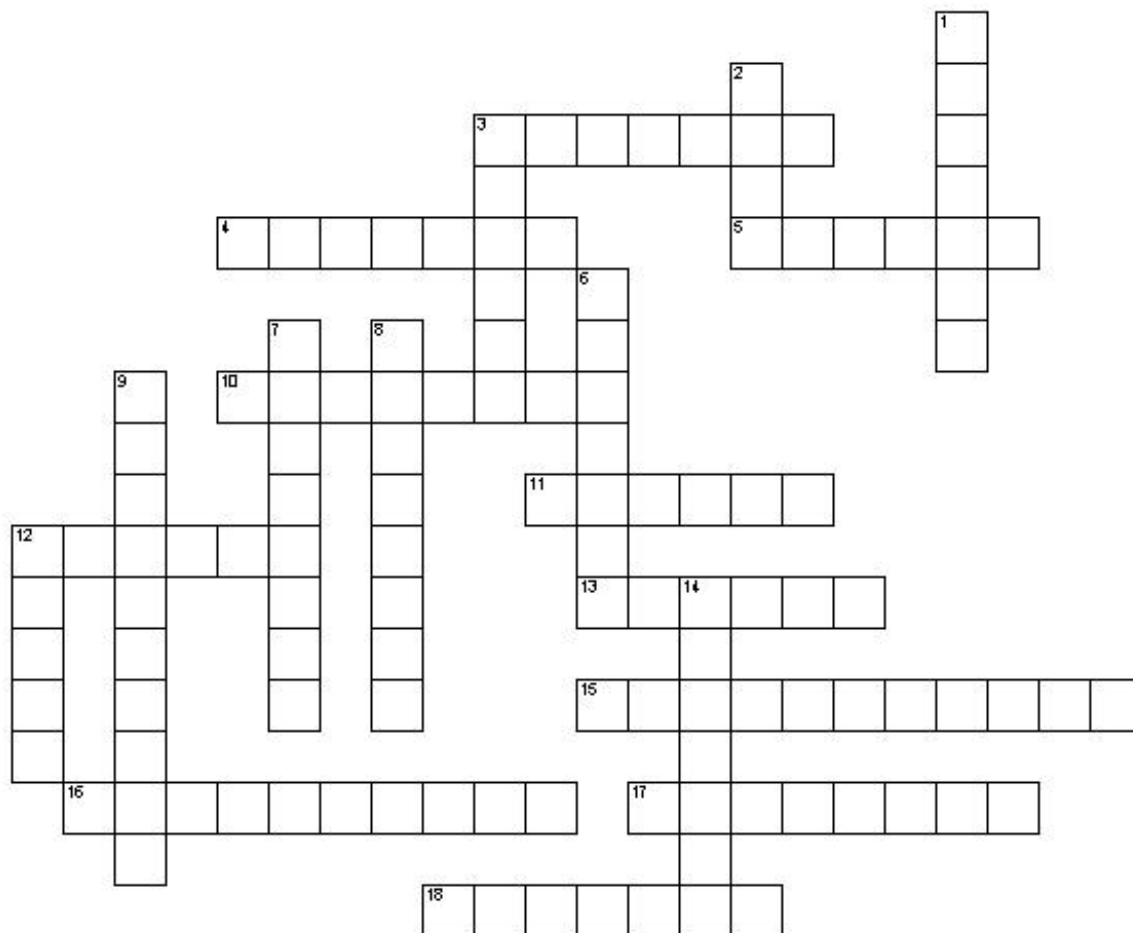
6. A piece of art made of clay or another material
7. Makeup for eyelashes
9. Mel goes on a date with Ted to see a movie at the _____ Center
15. When Diana gives Mel a makeover, she plucks Mel's _____
16. Lotion that is used to protect skin from the sun
18. Someone who does not eat meat
19. A two-piece bathing suit

DOWN

1. Everything in the Standings' living room is this color
2. Mel and Allison spy on the new neighbors using these
3. Diana reads these all the time
4. Mel decides she doesn't like Ted after he tries to hurt these animals
5. Mel makes bracelets and necklaces out of this rope
8. Ted Standing shows off for Mel by driving fast in his _____
10. A popular board game with property and money
11. Mel's new neighbors are Diana and ____ Standing
12. The color of Mel's new bikini
13. Mel eats this food for dinner at the Standings'
14. Ted and Mel share their first _____ while making popcorn
17. Mel's favorite cottage activity

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

THE STALKER



DOWN

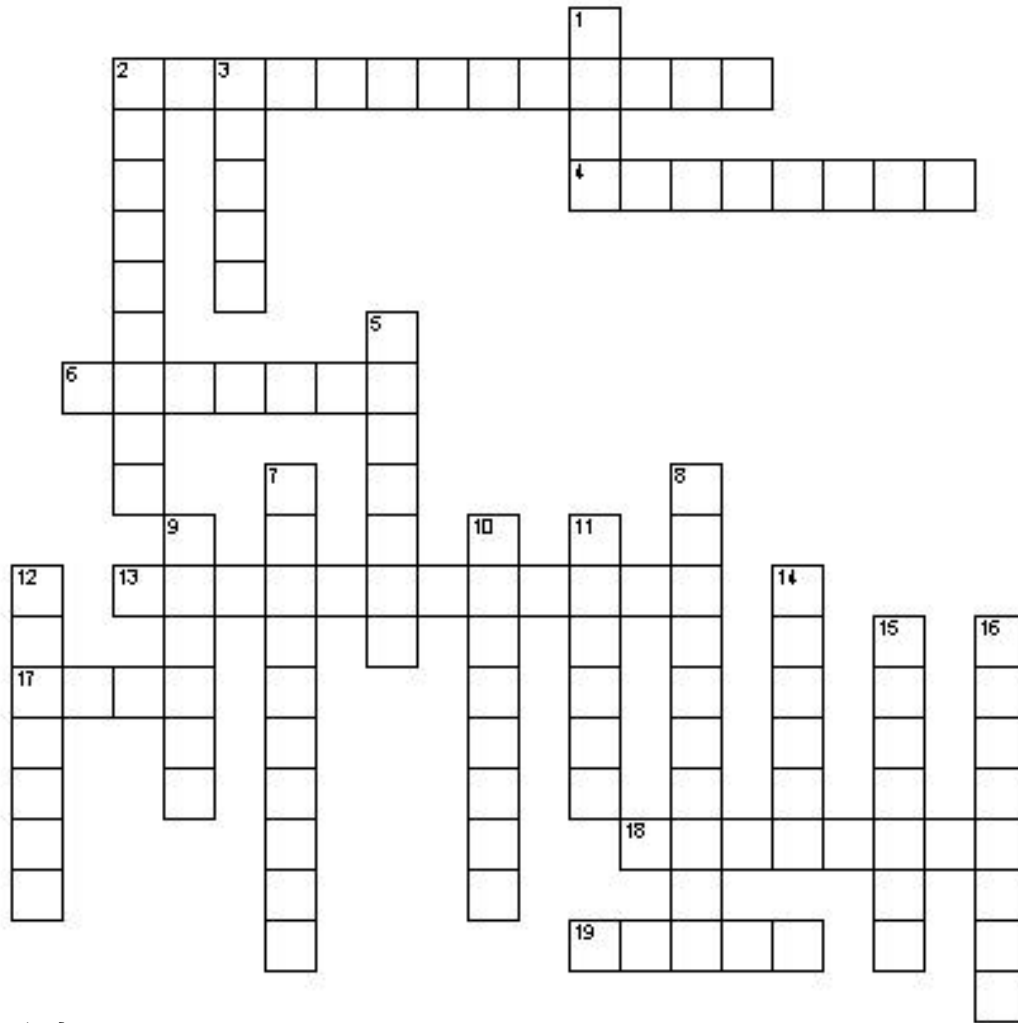
1. A person who is said to rise from the dead and drink the blood of sleeping persons
2. A plant used to make cloth and rope
3. Will's cottage is near the end of _____ Road
6. A tight-fitting suit worn for water sports (two words)
7. A short, tube-shaped noodle
8. A musical instrument similar to a flute
9. Looking through these will make things look larger
12. Will's cousin _____ has a prosthetic arm
14. A small vacation house

ACROSS

3. A tube used for breathing underwater
4. She has a crush on Kyle
5. A meal that is eaten outdoors
10. Kyle competes in this wakeboarding contest
11. A long, loose Hawaiian dress
12. Will believes this neighbor is a murderer
13. Fishing gear, such as lures
15. Will prefers _____ to wakeboarding
16. A false body part
17. These animals enter Will's cottage at night
18. Booker's real name is Mr. _____

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

STRANDED



DOWN

1. These small, flying mammals show up at the Standings' party
2. Mr. Randall and Ted rescue the lost teenagers in Ted's _____
3. A sharp tool used for shaving
5. Will's secret nickname for Ted
7. The name for the train bridge (two words)
8. A person who does not eat meat
9. The type of store where Lindsay works
10. Will, Mel, Allison, and Kyle canoe over to this lake (two words)
11. A meal that is eaten outdoors
12. A coin-operated music machine
14. Will's cousins have to go to _____ school
15. A small house used for vacation, usually located near a lake
16. Mel will be _____ years old this year

ACROSS

2. Mr. Randall plans this for Mel (two words)
4. A lotion that is used to prevent sunburn
6. To carry a boat overland
13. Kyle Jordan's favorite sport
17. Allison has a crush on this person
18. The Standings host this type of party at their cottage (two words)
19. A light, narrow boat

ANSWER KEY

SUMMER OF CHANGE – QUESTIONS: [W4, W12, R3, C2]

1. This summer, Mel's best friend Janine has moved away and there are new owners at the General Store.
2. The Randall cottage is at the end of Skokie Rd.
3. Mel meets Ian when she hides in his tree fort to spy on him. He climbs up the tree, but she steps on his fingers and knocks him down to the ground.
4. Mel is disappointed that Lindsay likes Ian because she hoped Ian would be her friend to hang out with over the summer. She is worried that Ian will spend all his time with Lindsay.
5. Mel thinks that Ian and his mom are murderers because they are talking about doing something quickly with a large bulky object before anyone sees them.
6. The author uses suspense so that we don't find out for sure that Ian is the store clerk until the end of the book.
7. Mel shows her disappointment that Janine has moved away by getting angry, moping around the cottage, and telling other people how she feels.

HOW TO BE A FROG MILLIONAIRE – QUESTIONS: [R5, C2, W2]

1. Will goes underneath his Grandma's cottage to get away from the twins.
2. The dock was new at the cottage.
3. Will slid down the banister so that he would not make any noise.
4. Will learned that if he approaches a frog from the front, it will jump into his hands. Frogs can't jump backwards.
5. Will was embarrassed because there are three girls in the Randall family and Will is shy around girls.
6. A wet suit keeps you warm and helps protect you if you fall.
7. Will starts to think the summer might be okay after he meets Kyle Jordan.
8. Answers will vary. Benny and Joey fart on Will's pillow; they wake up Will by rolling deodorant on his face; they wake up Will by squirting him with a water gun; Benny shakes hands with Will and lets his prosthetic arm come off in Will's hand; they trick Will into cracking an egg on top of his head; they tell Will he is being chased by a snapping turtle; they stuff his underwear into the knotholes in his bedroom wall.

THE STALKER – QUESTIONS: [R7, R6, R5]

1. Answers will vary.

Cottage	City or Country Home
Small	Big
Near a lake	Not usually near a lake
Used for vacations	Lived in all year round
May not have an indoor toilet	Always has an indoor toilet
Lots of mosquitoes	Not many mosquitoes
Campfires are allowed	Campfires are not allowed

2. The author makes the story suspenseful by dropping clues to keep the reader guessing.
3. Will was very nervous and fearful after he thought he found a body.
4. Will met Mel and Allison at Wakefest. He felt nervous talking to the girls. He blurted out something silly.
5. Grandma put flour on the floor at night. In the morning, there were raccoon tracks in the flour.
6. The clues Will left behind were: he left his shoe in the mud on Booker's property, he left footprints in Booker's garage, and he has Booker's spare keys.
7. Will decides that Booker must be a murderer after he finds a set of keys in the lake that belonged to Beatrice Jones. He sees Booker searching for something in the lake and figures he must be looking for the keys because he is hiding something.
8. Booker kept his spare keys in his tackle box. They fell out of his tackle box when he was fishing.

LITERARY CONCEPT: SUSPENSE [R4, R5]

The Clue	Will's Explanation	Actual Explanation
A set of keys in the lake	The keys fit Grandma's cottage so Booker must have used them to get in and murder Beatrice Jones	The keys are a spare set that Booker kept for Beatrice Jones when she was his neighbor many years ago
A bag that contains something big and bulky in Booker's garage	The bag contains Beatrice Jones' body	The bag contains Booker's collection of old hockey cards
Booker goes out snorkeling every day in front of his cottage	Booker is always looking for the body of Beatrice Jones, buried in a chest at the bottom of the lake	Booker is looking for his lost keys, which fell out of his fishing tackle box recently
Booker buys axe and rope	Booker is planning his next murder	Booker is setting a trap for raccoons that keep getting into his garage
Will hears banging and chopping sounds coming from Booker's porch	Booker is building a box to bury his next victim; or, he is ripping up the floor, which conceals the body of Beatrice Jones	Booker is building a trap to catch the raccoons
Booker is walking outside at night with a flashlight	Booker is sneaking around, plotting something evil	Booker is trying to scare away the raccoons that keep waking him up at night
Someone breaks into Grandma's cottage in the middle of night wakens Will	Booker is breaking into the cottage	Raccoons break into the cottage

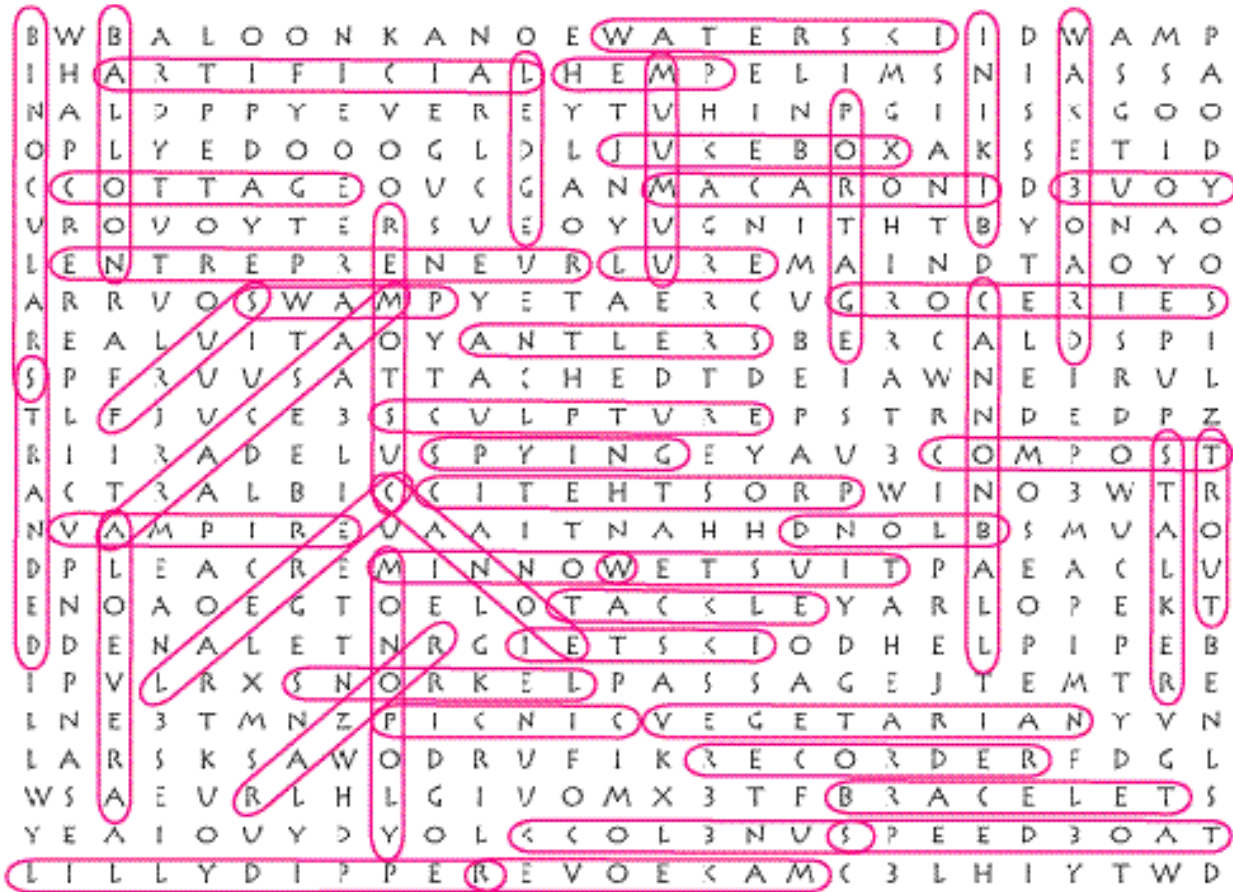
WHO IS MEL RANDALL ANYWAY QUESTIONS: [W1, R5, C10]

- Mel Randall is a thirteen-year-old girl who spends each summer at her cottage on Deer Lake with her dad and her two sisters, Sara and Lindsay.
- This novel is set in the fictional town of Deer Lake. The novel takes place in the early 21st century during the summer months of July and August.
- Diana's cottage has been completely renovated. All the rooms are painted white. There is a dishwasher in the kitchen and a new high-tech entertainment center with a huge television in the living room. Diana's room is perfectly decorated in blue and white and everything matches.
- Diana hides her chicken wrap under the bed because her mother doesn't allow food to be eaten outside the kitchen.
- Ted is not the kind of guy who would go canoeing. He likes speedboats and things that go fast. He later tells Mel that he thinks canoeing is boring.
- Allison likes Kyle; Lindsay likes Ian; Mel likes Ted.
- Likes: Ted is cute; Mel likes holding his hand; he seems to like her. Dislikes: he sometimes acts like a jerk; he doesn't like canoeing; he might only like her new bikini.
- Mel decides she doesn't want to date Ted because they don't have very much in common. He also does some cruel things that upset Mel, such as pretending to hit Will with his speedboat and throwing cans of soup at raccoons.

STRANDED QUESTIONS [W12, C3, R6]:

- Answers will vary. The proper name for a "meatatarian" is a carnivore.
- Answers will vary.
- A "P.D.A." is a Public Display of Affection.
- The other boys tease and call Will names until he feels he must jump.
- A bat hat is a place mat put on top of one's head.
- Mel gets embarrassed around Will because she has a crush on him.
- Will, Mel, Allison, and Kyle paddled to The Rocks on Crow Lake.
- Lindsay gives away the surprise when she prepares a picnic for four people before she could have possibly known they were all going on the canoe adventure.

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION



CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

SUMMER OF CHANGE

DOWN

1. California
3. lillydipper
5. General Store
6. tiger stripe
8. compost

ACROSS

2. Thailand
4. gin rummy
7. bracelet
9. vegetarian
10. Skokie
11. Happy
12. Ian Suwan
13. The Hobbit
14. solitaire
15. wakeboarding
16. backpack
17. Crow Lake

FROG MILLIONAIRE

DOWN

1. prosthetic
2. wakeboard
5. frogs
8. nine
9. minnow
11. Randall
12. cereal
13. swamp
14. twins
16. canoe

ACROSS

3. Star Wars
4. boathouse
6. entrepreneur
7. Trading Post
10. groceries
13. speedboat
15. Willy
17. false

CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

WHO IS MEL RANDALL

DOWN

1. white
2. binoculars
3. magazines
4. raccoons
5. hemp
8. speedboat
10. Monopoly
11. Ted
12. green
13. steak
14. kiss
17. canoeing

ACROSS

6. sculpture
7. mascara
9. community
15. eyebrows
16. sunblock
18. vegetarian
19. bikini

THE STALKER

DOWN

1. vampire
2. hemp
3. Skokie
6. wet suit
7. macaroni
8. recorder
9. binoculars
12. Benny
14. cottage

ACROSS

3. snorkel
4. Allison
5. picnic
10. Wakefest
11. muumuu
12. Booker
13. tackle
15. waterskiing
16. prosthetic
17. raccoons
18. Zwicker

STRANDED

DOWN

1. bats
2. speedboat
3. razor
5. jerk boy
7. the trestle
8. vegetarian
9. bakery
10. Crow Lake
11. picnic
12. jukebox
14. summer
15. cottage
16. fourteen

ACROSS

2. surprise party
4. sunblock
6. portage
13. wakeboarding
17. Kyle
18. pig roast
19. canoe