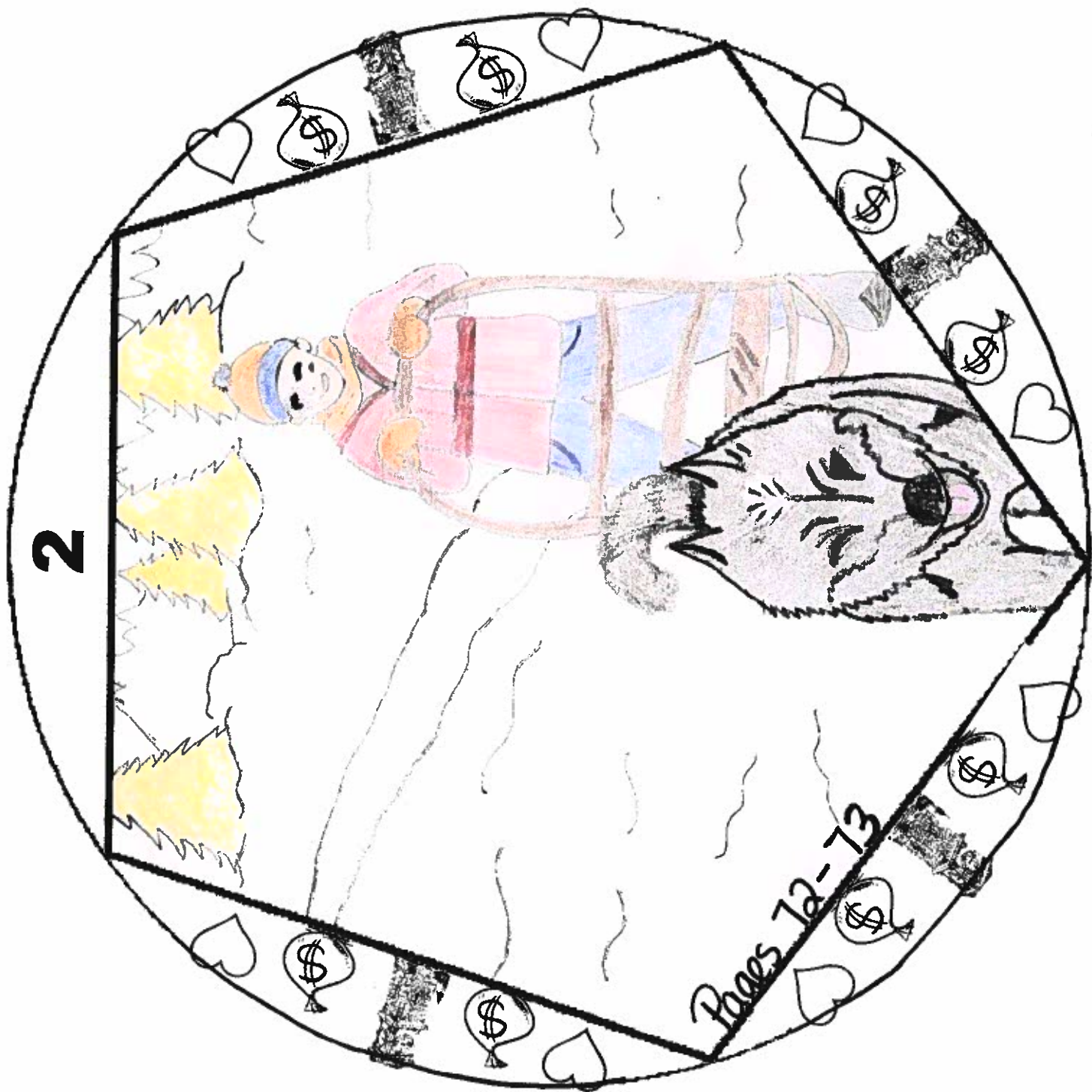


1

STONE FOX

*John Reynolds
Gardiner*

*Mrs. Clark,
Block #*





Little Willy is on a mission.

First, he needs to save the farm. Second, he has to help his grandfather get better. The only way he believes he can do that is by winning a dog sled race with his best pal, Searchlight. He has a tough competitor, Stone Fox. No one has beat him yet. Will Little Willy be the first?

4

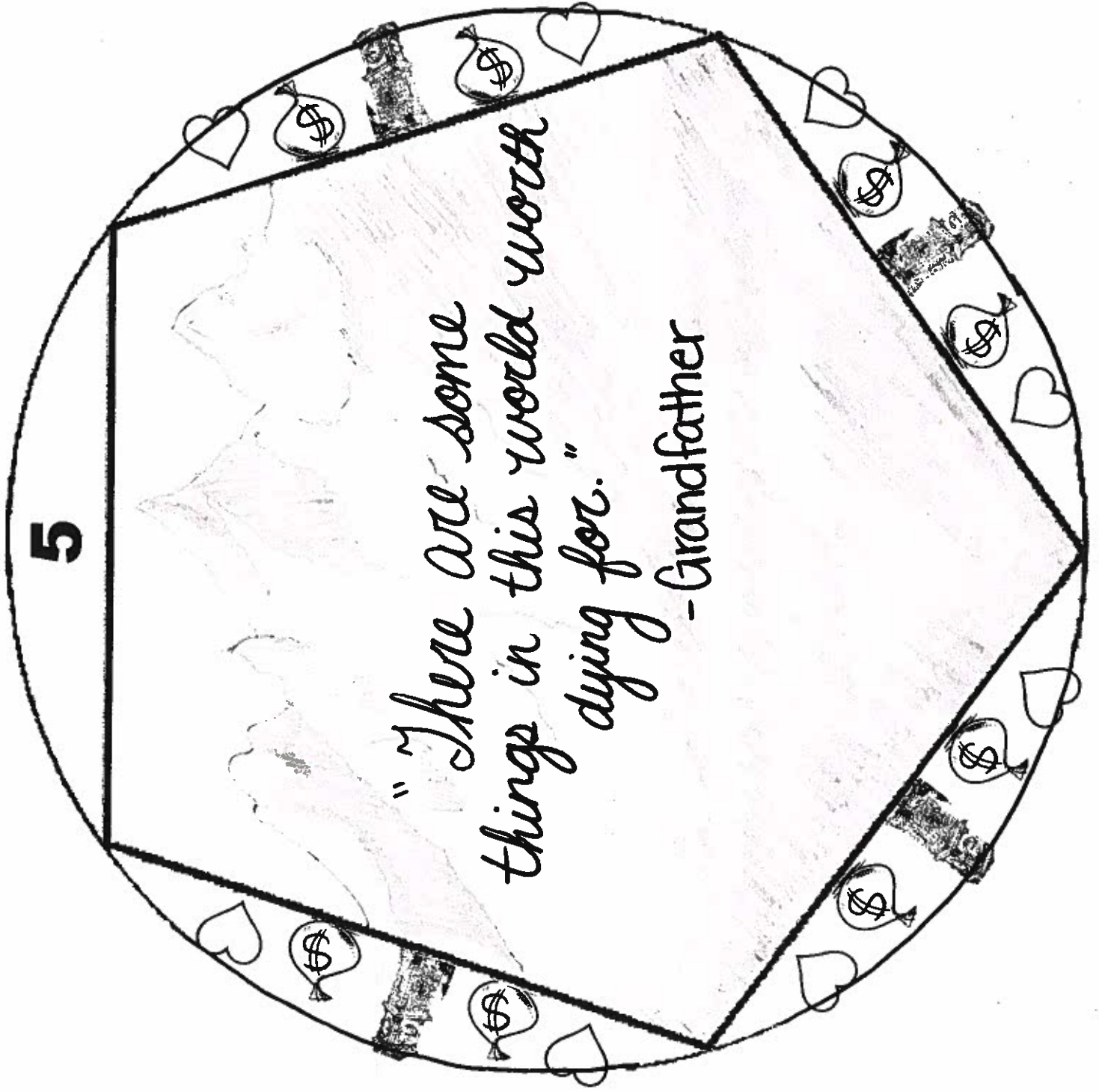
Dear Diary,

Today is the big day! I, surprisingly, am not nervous!

I know this track and so does Searchlight. My eye may be swollen shut but with Searchlight leading the way, I don't need to see! I even got my shortcut across the lake approved by the Mayor. I doubt any of the other racers would try to follow me. I know when I win, grand father will get better! I just do!

5

"There are some
things in this world worth
dying for."
-Grandfather



6

I believe everyone
should read this book.
It involves real life
struggles and challenges.
It shows the main character
maintaining his confidence
and persevering throughout the
book. It teaches us to never
give up hope and to keep
on going. I want
to be just like
Willy!

Throughout the book,
people keep suggesting to
Willy that he should sell the
farm. Willy decides he will save
the farm himself and will not ask
for help. If I were in this situation,
I don't think I would go without
asking for help. While I wouldn't want
to sell the farm, I would try to raise
funds by doing bake sales or making
something that people could buy
from me to raise money. If
I really had to, I'd
ask Mrs. Peacock
to check on
Grandfather.

"I'll grow more
potatoes than
anybody's ever
seen. You'll
see..."
- Little Willy

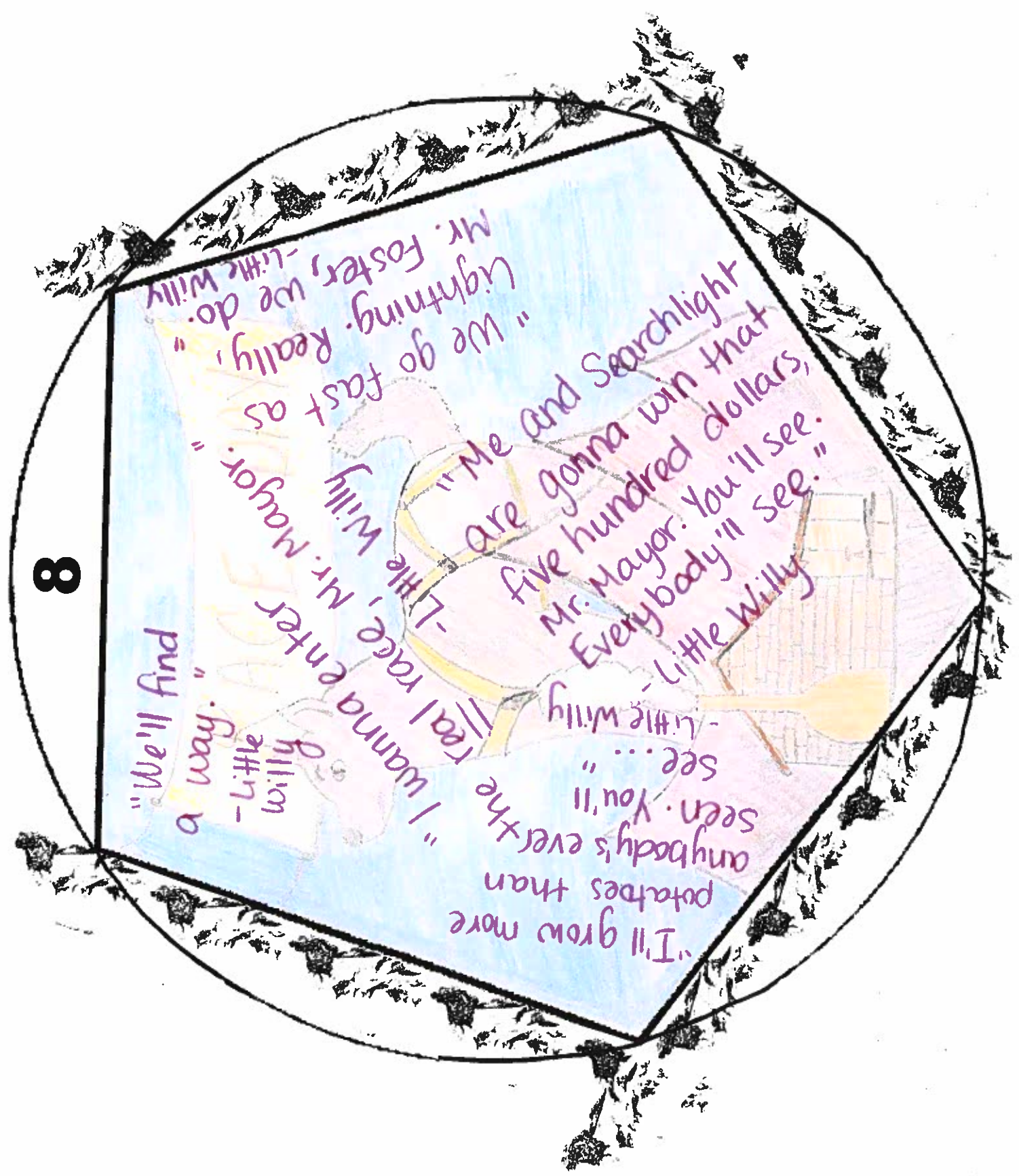
"We'll find
a way."
- Little Willy

"I wanna enter
the real race, Mr. Mayor."
- Little Willy

"Me and Searchlight
are gonna win that
five hundred dollars,
Mr. Mayor. You'll see.
Everybody'll see."
- Little Willy

"We go fast as
lightning. Really."
- Little Willy

"Mr. Foster, we do."
- Little Willy



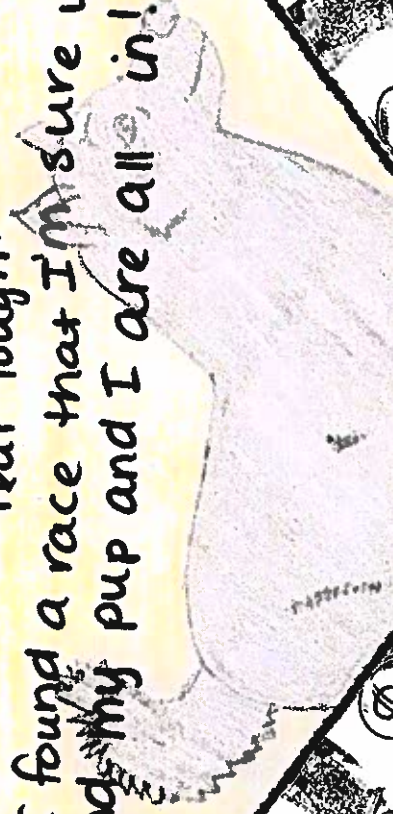
There was a day,
a very sad day,
when Grandfather wouldn't
get up.

All I could do was look at my pup,
And figure out a plan.

The taxes were due and I have a few
potatoes to grow to get funds.

But that's not enough and things are
real tough.

But I found a race that I'm sure we will win
and my pup and I are all in!



"Stone Fox started off DEAD LAST."
- page 71 (Idiom)

This means that Stone Fox was the absolute last person in the race. This shows me that Stone Fox is not worried about winning.

This means that Stone Fox's face was very stern and had no expression like stone. This shows Stone Fox's character trait of being closed off to others.

(Metaphor)
"His face was solid granite."
- page 52

"We go fast as lightning." (Simile)
- page 48

This means that Little Willy and Searchlight go really fast. This shows their determination and faith that they'll win.

ALTERNATE

Ending

Searchlight was a hundred feet from the finish line, little Willy could almost taste the win! Suddenly, Stone Fox raced past him. "Go, girl, go! We've got this!" As determined as little Willy was, Searchlight was even more so. Little Willy felt a lurch in the sled, so hard it almost knocked him off.

She was doing it, she was pushing herself harder and faster than ever before. Little Willy knew they would win. They were neck and neck with Stone Fox now. Searchlight was leading the pack by a single inch. Little Willy thought of the farm and Grandfather and what he saw in the window just a few minutes ago. Was it real or just his imagination? He'd find out soon enough.

The finish line was coming up fast. They just had to keep going, had to keep pushing. By the time they crossed the finish line, little Willy couldn't tell who won. The race was so close. Stone Fox's face was no longer solid granite, it was soft and sad. Little Willy had never seen him with this face.

Suddenly, Mayor Smiley, Doc Smith, Lester and even the town drunk, Dusty were surrounding little Willy. They weren't smiling though, but why? Little Willy was sure that he and Searchlight won. She was beaming, sitting next to him and panting like crazy. Doc Smith pulled little Willy aside. She said, "That was the hardest I've ever seen you fight, Willy and you're no quitter. But you didn't win, Stone Fox beat you by just a hair." Tears began welling up in her eyes.

Little Willy blinked, stunned by the news of his loss. Suddenly, all his emotions began to flood over him. He was not going to lose his farm, plus Grandfather had just gotten better hadn't he? Clifford Snyder made his way over the Willy. "So, I'm guessing you have no back-up plan to pay the taxes boy." Little Willy was devastated.

As Clifford Snyder continued to pester Willy about his loss and that he needs to pay the taxes and how he was "fixin' to take that old farm," Stone Fox appeared. He now stood between Clifford Snyder and little Willy. He was so much bigger than them both. With a strong voice, he said "Leave this boy alone." He put his hand on his rifle and Clifford Snyder backed up. Then, he turned to little

Willy, locked eyes with him and handed him the race money.

Interview!

Fan: Why did you kill Searchlight?

Gardiner: While I really, really wanted Searchlight to live in the end, I had to do it. I needed to give the characters a tragedy to experience but also needed to shock the reader.

Fan: But why kill her and not just have Little Willy lose the race instead?

Gardiner: Little Willy always gave 120% and so did Searchlight. She loved him with all her heart, literally. Remember when grandfather said, "Some things in this world are worth dying for"? Well this rings true for Searchlight.

She loved Willy so much and wanted to help him so bad that she sacrificed herself to

do it. That is true family.