

Sample Pages from
Tuck Everlasting

by Natalie Babbitt

A Novel Teaching Pack

By Margaret Whisnant



with
Chapter Summaries Prereading Activities
Vocabulary Short Answer Questions
Objective Tests Think, Write, Create Activities
Graphic Organizers for Writing
and
Answer Keys

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Chapter Summaries

Prologue

- One day not so very long ago in the first week of August, three seemingly disconnected things happen.
- At dawn, Mae Tuck sets out on her horse for the wood at the edge of Treegap to meet her sons Miles and Jesse, as she does once every ten years.
- At noontime, Winnie Foster, whose family owns the wood, decides to think about running away.
- At sunset a stranger, looking for someone, comes to the Fosters' gate.
- The wood connects all of them, like the hub of a wheel—a fixed point, best left undisturbed.

1

- Long ago, cattle create the road leading into Treegap. It wanders pleasantly until it reaches the wood, where it veers sharply in a wide arc and passes around. On the other side of the wood, the road belongs to people.
- The first house standing on the left side of the road is uninviting and enclosed by an iron fence. The byway passes other cottages and makes its way into the village where the jailhouse and the gallows are located
- There is something strange about the wood. It has a sleepy, otherworld appearance, and for the most part people follow the road around it. There it no road *through* it.
- The wood belongs to the Fosters, the people who live in the uninviting house.
- Winnie, the Fosters' only child, never goes into the wood, and she has never been curious about it.
- The cows have isolated the wood, and without their wisdom, people would have found the giant ash tree at its center, and the little spring bubbling up among its roots. The discovery would have been a disaster so immense the earth would have trembled on its axis.

2

- Mae Tuck wakes up next to her sleeping husband, who is smiling—something he almost never does except in sleep. She wakes him by announcing that the boys will be home tomorrow.
- Tuck grumbles because Mae has awakened him from a dream about being in heaven. Mae argues that it is no use having the dream as nothing is going to change.
- Mae plans to take the horse to the wood to meet her sons. It has been ten years since she was last in Treegap, and she is certain no one will recognize her.
- When his wife asks if he will be all right while she is gone, Tuck reminds her that nothing could possibly happen to him. He goes back to sleep.
- Mae never goes anywhere without her little music box, the one pretty thing she owns. She drops it into her skirt pocket.
- There is no reason for Mae to look at herself in the mirror as she, her husband, and Miles and Jesse have all looked the same for eighty-seven years.

3

- At noon on the same day in the first week of August, Winnie Foster sits inside the fence of the touch-me-not house throwing pebbles at a large toad across the road. She intentionally misses the toad as she talks to it about her plans to run away.
- Both her grandmother and mother call from the house, one cautioning her not to get dirty and the other ordering her to come in out of the heat for lunch.
- Winnie complains to the toad she is tired of being an only child and watched all the time. She wants to do something interesting that is all her own.
- She decides against keeping the toad in a cage as a pet since that would put the animal in the same state she is in—hardly ever allowed to leave the yard by herself.
- Winnie decides she will have to run away in order to do something important. She will leave first thing in the morning while everyone is still asleep.

Word Lists with Definitions

Arranged in Story Order
(Some words may appear on more than one page.)

Set One; Chapter 1—Chapter 5

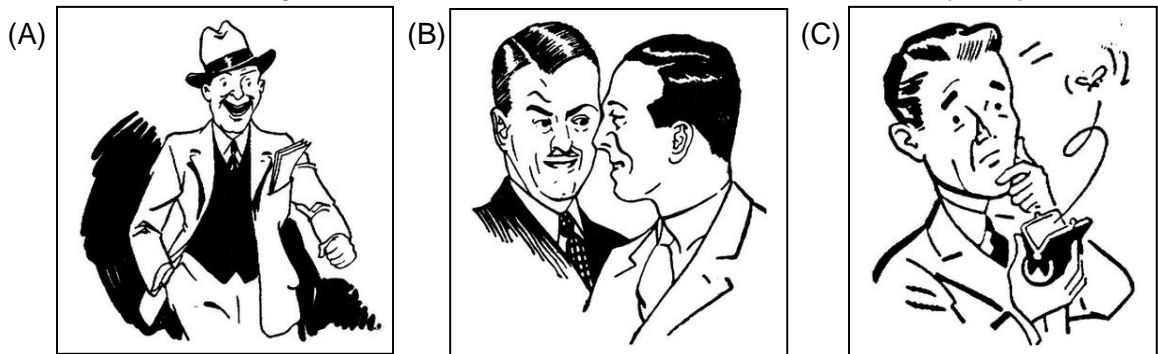
- tangent** Making contact at a single point or along a line; touching by not intersecting; *off on a tangent*: digressing suddenly from one course of thought or action and turning to another; departure; alteration. (p. 5)
- ambled** Went at a slow, easy pace; strolled; sauntered. (p. 5)
- tranquil** Peaceful; quiet; calm; free from commotion or disturbances. (p. 5)
- bovine** Of or pertaining to cattle, buffalo, etc. (p. 5)
- infinite** Indefinitely or exceedingly great; unlimited or immeasurable in extent of space, duration of time, etc.; limitless; everlasting. (p. 5)
- veered** Turned aside from a course, purpose, or direction; swerved; curved; deflected. (p. 5)
- abruptly** Suddenly or unexpectedly; curt or brusque in manner or speech;. (p. 6)
- oppressive** Causing discomfort by being excessive, intent, elaborate, etc.; burdensome, unjustly harsh, or tyrannical; brutal; overbearing. (p. 6)
- meager** Lacking fullness or richness; scanty; inadequate; lean; thin; small. (p. 6)
- forlorn** Unhappy or miserable, as in condition, feeling, or appearance; lonely; sad; forsaken. (p. 6)
- accessible** Easy to enter, approach, reach, speak with, or use; available; near. (p. 6)
- dimensions** Measurement in length, width, and thickness; scope; extent or magnitude. (p. 6)
- immense** Very great or large; vast; huge; immeasurable; boundless. (p. 8)
- melancholy** A gloomy state of mind, especially when it lasts for a long period of time; depression; sober thoughtfulness; sadness; despondency. (p. 9)
- rueful** Feeling, expressing, or showing sorrow or regret; mournful; doleful; sorrowful. (p. 11)
- intrusions** Entrances or interruptions without invitation, permission, or welcome; interferences; attacks; invasions. (p. 14)
- grimace** A facial expression, often ugly or contorted, indicating disapproval, pain, contempt, or disgust; frown; scowl, sneer. (p. 14)
- peered** Looked intently, searchingly, or with difficulty; peeped out or appeared slightly; gazed; squinted; gawked. (p. 15)
- exasperated** Irritated or provoked to a high degree; extremely annoyed; vexed; infuriated. (p. 16)
- jaunty** Crisp and dapper in appearance; having a buoyant or self-confident air; cheerful; bright; lively. (p. 17)
- marionette** A puppet manipulated from above by strings attached to its jointed limbs. (p. 18)
- shrug** The movement of raising and contracting the shoulders, especially as a gesture of disdain, doubt, or indifference(p. 19)
- retorted** Replied, usually in a sharp, severe, or witty manner; answered. (p. 19)
- remnants** Something left over; remainders; pieces of remaining fabric after the rest has been used or sold. (p. 21)
- precisely** Definitely or strictly stated, defined, or fixed; exactly; explicitly. (p. 23)
- galling** Causing extreme irritation or chagrin; exasperating; irksome; vexing. (p. 23)
- consolingly** In such a manner as to alleviate or lessen the disappointment, grief, or sorrow of; comfortingly. (p. 23)
- rumpling** Wrinkling or forming into folds or creases. (p. 25)
- irrelevantly** In a manner not related to the matter being considered; unnecessarily; pointlessly; needlessly. (p. 27)
- primly** Properly; according to expected or proper behavior. (p. 27)
- solemnly** In a manner that is grave, sober, or mirthless, as in speech, tone, mood, or expression; seriously. (p. 28)
- brooch** A clasp or decorative jewelry, especially for a woman's dress, fastened with a pin. (p. 30)

Dictionary Digs

Set One: Chapter 1—Chapter 5

Dig into your favorite dictionary to find answers to the following questions about some words from Chapters 1 through 5 of **Tuck Everlasting**. Write the **letters** of the correct answers in the blanks to the left.

- _____ 1. An *antonym* of **immense** is (A) diminutive, (B) gargantuan, (C) diminishing.
- _____ 2. Which of the following is something that is **not** likely to be described as **rumpling**? (A) a piece of fabric, (B) a building made of glass, (C) pages from a newspaper.
- _____ 3. The word **bovine** refers to (A) horses, (B) cattle, (C) any wild, grazing animal.
- _____ 4. A **forlorn** facial expression indicates (A) seething rage, (B) suppressed laughter, (C) unhappiness.
- _____ 5. Which of the following cartoons *best* illustrates the definition of the word **jaunty**?



- _____ 6. Which of the following is **not** true of an **accessible** building? The building (A) is easy to enter, (B) is in a location that makes it difficult to find, (C) is nearby.
- _____ 7. Choose the word that can be substituted for **ambled** in the following sentence without changing its meaning.
*Carefully inspecting item after item, Mother **ambled** from booth to booth at the bazaar.*
(A) hastened, (B) jaunted, (C) strolled
- _____ 8. Which phrase best illustrates the correct use of the word **tangent**? (A) go off on a tangent during a conversation, (B) the tangent between the two buildings, (C) use a tangent as weapon.
- _____ 9. A parent might speak **consolingly** to a child who (A) is experiencing disappointment or grief, (B) has done something strictly forbidden, (C) has successfully completed a difficult task.
- _____ 10. A *synonym* for **meager** is (A) greedy, (B) substantial, (C) scant.
- _____ 11. A **shrug** usually indicates (A) excitement and approval, (B) doubt or indifference, (C) sadness and depression.
- _____ 12. A **marionette** is a type of puppet that (A) is used only for stage performances, (B) is manipulated from above by strings or wires, (C) tells a story through movement rather than words.
- _____ 13. Which of the following is **not** an example of **intrusions**? (A) repeatedly interrupting a speaker with comments, (B) repeatedly entering a room where a meeting is taking place, (C) students who consistently raise their hands before asking a question.
- _____ 14. One definition of **grimace** is (A) an uncoordinated way of walking, (B) a type of inappropriate language, (C) a facial expression indicating pain.
- _____ 15. An example of an occasion that should **not** be conducted **solemnly** is a (A) memorial service, (B) a meeting with an attorney, (C) a sweet sixteen birthday party.

Short Answer Questions

Prologue, Chapter 1, and Chapter 2

1. How long ago and in what part of the year did Mae Tuck ride to the wood, Winnie decide to think about running away, and a stranger come to the Fosters' door?
2. What was it that connected all three events?
3. How had the road into Treegap been formed?
4. What path did the road take when it reached the wood?
5. Who owned the wood?
6. What would have happened if the cows had made their road through the wood instead of around it?
7. Why was Tuck smiling in his sleep?
8. Why did Mae think no one in Treegap would remember her?
9. What object did Mae Tuck take with her when she rode out to meet her sons in the wood?
10. Why didn't Mae need to look at herself in the mirror?

Chapter 3 and Chapter 4

1. What animal did Winnie Foster tell her troubles to?
2. Describe the situation that made Willie so unhappy she planned to run away.
3. When did Winnie think she might actually go through with her plans?
4. What memory came to Winnie when she looked at the tall thin stranger in the yellow suit?
5. Why was the man in the yellow suit walking along the road from Treegap?
6. What two questions did the stranger not answer for Winnie's grandmother?
7. What did Winnie's grandmother say to her granddaughter about the music coming from the wood?
8. What question did the man in the yellow suit ask Winnie's grandmother about the music?
9. What did Winnie say about the music?
10. What was the stranger doing as he disappeared down the road?

Prologue, Chapter 1, Chapter 2
Pages 3-12

Write the **letter** of the correct answer in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. The story began in the month of (A) January, (B) June, (C) August.
- _____ 2. The road to Treegap had originally been (A) a cow path, (B) a deer trail, (C) an Indian trail.
- _____ 3. The road to Treegap took a sharp turn and passed around (A) the lake, (B) a large house, (C) the wood.



- _____ 4. The first house into the village (A) had a touch-me-not appearance, (B) seemed to be uninhabited, (C) had a friendly, inviting air about it.
- _____ 5. The first house on the road to Treegap was surrounded by (A) a white picket fence, (B) a tall hedge, (C) an iron fence.
- _____ 6. There was something strange about (A) the house, (B) the wood, (C) the way the road curved.
- _____ 7. The wood had (A) a strange color and odor about it, (B) unusual sounds and animals, (C) a sleeping, otherworld appearance.
- _____ 8. Which of the following was **not** a reason people don't go through the wood? (A) There was no road through it. (B) The same people who owned the forbidding cottage owned the wood. (C) It was the long way into the village.
- _____ 9. Winnie was (A) not curious about the wood, (B) eager to explore the wood, (C) afraid of the wood.

Chapter 3 and Chapter 4
Pages 13-21

Write either **True** or **False** in the blank before each statement.

- _____ 1. The animal Winnie Foster talked to was a toad.
- _____ 2. Winnie liked the attention she got from her mother and grandmother.
- _____ 3. Winnie's mother and grandmother encouraged her to visit her friends in Treetop on a regular basis.
- _____ 4. Winnie decided she would run away early in the morning while everyone was still asleep.
- _____ 5. It was sunset when the stranger came strolling up the road from the village.
- _____ 6. The stranger was tall and thin, and he wore a yellow suit.



- _____ 7. Though Winnie was half charmed by him, the stranger's appearance reminded her of the stiff black ribbons they had hung on the door of the cottage for her grandfather's funeral.
- _____ 8. It was important to the stranger how long Winnie's family had lived in their house.
- _____ 9. The stranger said he was looking for a family.
- _____ 10. The stranger told Winnie's grandmother his name and where he was from.
- _____ 11. Winnie, her grandmother, and the stranger heard music coming from the wood.

Chapter 5 and Chapter 6
Pages 22-36

Write either **Yes** or **No** in the blank before each question.

- _____ 1. Did Winnie decide not to run away because there was really nowhere else she wanted to be, and she was afraid to go alone?



- _____ 2. Did Winnie go into the wood to find out what had made the music?
- _____ 3. Did Winnie find the wood to be a frightening place?
- _____ 4. Was the toad Winnie had seen the day before also in the wood?
- _____ 5. Did Winnie fall in love with Jesse at first sight?
- _____ 6. Was the spring that lay beneath the tree large and bubbling loudly?
- _____ 7. Did Winnie see Jesse drink from the spring?
- _____ 8. Did Jesse seem to know Winnie's family?
- _____ 9. Did Jesse tell Winnie he was both one hundred and four and seventeen years old?
- _____ 10. Did Winnie ask Jesse if he was married?
- _____ 11. Was Winnie almost eleven years old?
- _____ 12. Did Jesse invite Winnie to drink from the spring?

WHOLE BOOK TEST

Winnie	music box	wood carvings	electrical storm
Mae	the man in the yellow suit	horse	witchcraft
Tuck	cat	mouse	ten
Miles	Treegap	his grandmother	wheel
Jesse	the constable	good girl	cows
the wood	Winnie's grandmother	a toad	shotgun
kidnapped	seventeen	the Fosters	

From the list above, choose the word, name, or phrase that fits each of the clues below and write it in the blank. **All** answers will be **used at least once**. **Some** answers will be used **more than once**.

- _____ 1. Tuck referred to her as "a natural growing child."
- _____ 2. Tuck made money selling these.
- _____ 3. They were the owners of the wood.
- _____ 4. She was Tuck's wife.
- _____ 5. This animal did not drink from the spring and died a natural death.
- _____ 6. Winnie insisted the Tucks had not done this to her.
- _____ 7. The ash tree and the spring were located in this place.
- _____ 8. Winnie fell in love with him at first sight.
- _____ 9. He felt the life he and his family lived was useless.
- _____ 10. This was the animal, owned by the Tucks, that was immortal.
- _____ 11. The man in the yellow suit learned about the Tucks and Mae's music box from this person.
- _____ 12. He discovered the Tuck's secret.
- _____ 13. It belonged to Mae, and she never went anywhere without it.
- _____ 14. He lost his wife and children because he didn't age.
- _____ 15. Jesse was this age when he drank from the spring.
- _____ 16. She had heard the music from the wood more than once.
- _____ 17. This was the name of the village where Winnie lived.

Think, Write, Create

Chapter Activities

Prologue, Chapter 1, and Chapter 2

Cows created the road that led people around the wood on its way into Treegap. Not surprisingly, before road building became a human endeavor, people sometimes used paths created by wild animals as roadways. In many cases, natural features provided and determined the route people would take. It is an amazing fact that some of our modern superhighway systems actually follow old Native American trails.

Do some research to find the story behind one of the following routes and write a report about what you found. Include a map, drawings, pictures, or photos to make your final product more informative.

- the ***Trading Path*** (a.k.a. the ***Path of the Catawba***, the ***Catawba Road***)
- the ***Dalton Trail***
- the ***Great Shamokin Path***
- the ***Kittanning Path***
- the ***California Trail***
- the ***Northwestern Turnpike***
- the ***Oregon Trail***
- the ***Santa Fe Trail***
- Route 66***
- the ***Wilderness Road***
- the ***Butterfield Overland Mail*** (a.k.a. ***Oxbow Route***, ***Butterfield Overland Stage***, ***Butterfield Stage***)
- the ***Cherokee Path***
- the ***Pony Express***
- the ***Mohawk Trail***
- the ***Mormon Trail***

Over the years, the word “road” has expanded into many different terms that identify specific types of routes.

- Write definitions for each of the following “road” terms:

<i>Avenue</i>	<i>Boulevard</i>	<i>Court</i>	<i>Drive</i>	<i>Freeway</i>
<i>Highway</i>	<i>Lane</i>	<i>Street</i>	<i>Turnpike</i>	<i>Way</i>

- Use a road Atlas of your state or city to find actual roads that have the above terms in their names. Give their locations (county, city, etc.), and their routes (from Point A to Point B).

If you were in charge of building a new road in your area, where would it be located? What would be its purpose? What would it look like? Would there be anything unusual about it—underground, totally elevated, strictly for young people under 16, weatherproof, accident proof, etc.? What are your estimated construction costs? How would you finance the project? What would be the most appropriate name for the road?

Organize your ideas, and then write a composition about **The New Road**. Include drawings and a map as part of your final product. (See **Graphic Organizer #1**)

Think, Write, Create

Whole Book Activities

For most of us, dreaming about being dead would be a nightmare, but when we first meet Angus Tuck he complains because his wife has awakened him from a pleasant dream about being dead.

- To Tuck, how was life like having a bad dream and not being able to wake up?
 - Which of the Tucks thought of his fate as a dream come true? Explain your choice.
-

Mae Tuck thought of her life circumstance as neither a curse nor a blessing.

- What word do you think *best* describes Mae's attitude? Use events from the story and the word's definition to support your choice.

indifferent

resigned

resilient

adaptable

complacent

passive

stoic

reconciled

- Suppose that only Mae and her husband had drunk from the spring. Do you think her attitude might have been different, or would it have been exactly the same? Explain how you reached your conclusion.
-

In Chapter 4, the author gives a detailed description of the man in the yellow suit. (*He*) was remarkably tall and narrow. . . His long chin faded off into a thin. . . beard. A black hat dangled from one hand. . . he passed the other through his dry, gray hair. . . with long, thin fingers. His tall body moved continuously; a foot tapped, a shoulder twitched. And it moved in angles, rather jerkily. . . he had a kind of grace, like a well-handled marionette. . . he seemed almost to hang suspended there in the twilight.

- Does the mental image painted by the author—exclude what you know about his behavior—portray a villain? Why or why not?
 - How was the color of the man's suit significant? Can you suggest another color that would have been a better choice for his attire?
 - What details might you have added to the man's appearance to give the reader more vivid clues that he is a despicable character?
 - Do a color drawing to depict your perception of the man in the yellow suit. You may represent your ideas realistically as a human form or interpretively as lines and colors.
-

The author describes Mae Tuck as *a great potato of a woman with a round, sensible face and calm brown eyes*. (Chapter 2). . . *a big, comfortable-looking woman*. (Chapter 5)

Concerning Angus Tuck's appearance, she writes . . . *the big man with his sad face and baggy trousers. . . his eyes went soft, and the gentlest smile . . . displaced the . . . creases of his cheeks*. (Chapter 10)

- Use your imagination to write more details about Mae Tuck's physical appearance. Then, do the same for Pa Tuck.
- Choose one of the following activities:

Draw pictures of Mae and Angus Tuck as you imagine them.

Search through magazines to find pictures that match your conceptions of Mae and Angus Tuck.

Take a photograph of someone you think looks like Mae Tuck. Then photograph an Angus Tuck look-alike.

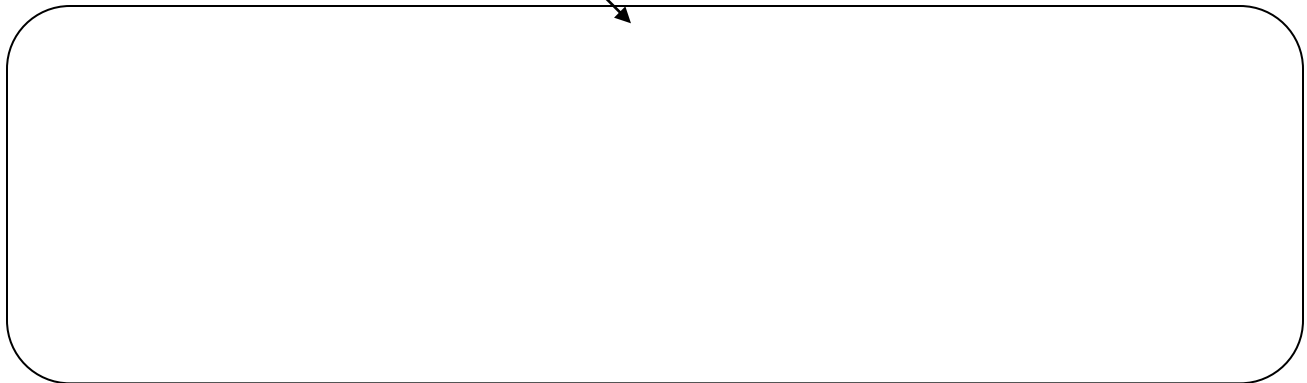
You might also enjoy using make-up (on a willing participant, please) to create Mae and Angus Tuck and then photograph your characters.

The New Road

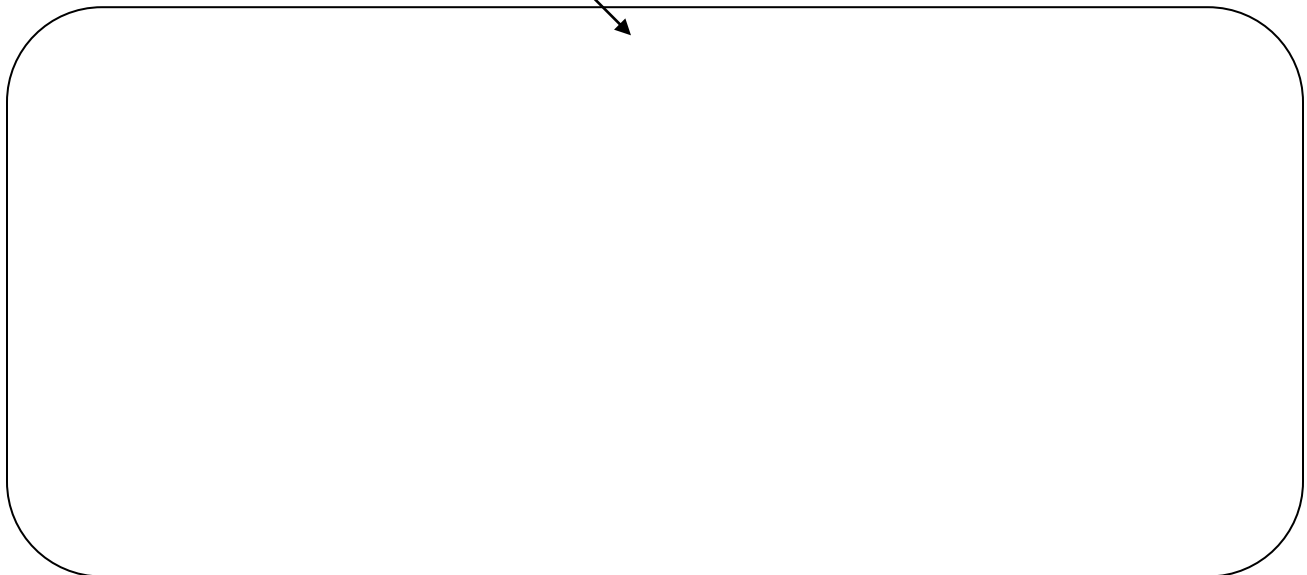
If you were in charge of building a new road in your area, where would it be located? What would be its purpose? What would it look like? Would there be anything unusual about it—underground, totally elevated, strictly for young people under 16, weatherproof, accident proof, etc.? What are your estimated construction costs? How would you finance the project? What would be the most appropriate name for the road?

Use the form below to organize your ideas, and then write a composition about **The New Road**. Include drawings and a map as part of your final product.

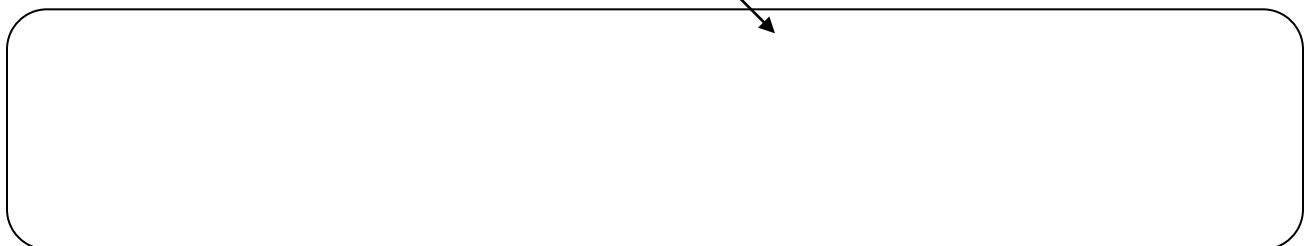
The location of the new road and its purpose. . .



Appearance, design, unusual characteristics. . .



Estimated time and construction costs, funding source(s). . .



Project name. . .

