

Name _____

Rooty! Toot! Toot!

Norman grew up on a large farm in the middle of the North Dakota prairie long before electricity found its way in from town. Without a refrigerator, the only way his family had to keep lots of food fresh through the winter months and cool during the hot summers was the root cellar. Some people say that root cellars were an absolute essential before refrigeration.

The root cellar on the Carl farm was built behind the house so that his mother could make a fast trip to pick the fixings for supper, no matter what the weather was. Since the family only made one trip into town a couple of times a month, the root cellar provided enough fresh food to last from the fall through the middle of the next summer. Meat that they butchered in the late fall or early spring was stored in town in rented meat lockers. Norman's mother would pick what she wanted during trips to town and then use large metal cream cans to store enough meat for a month. All she had to do was put the cans outside in the snow during the ice cold winters.

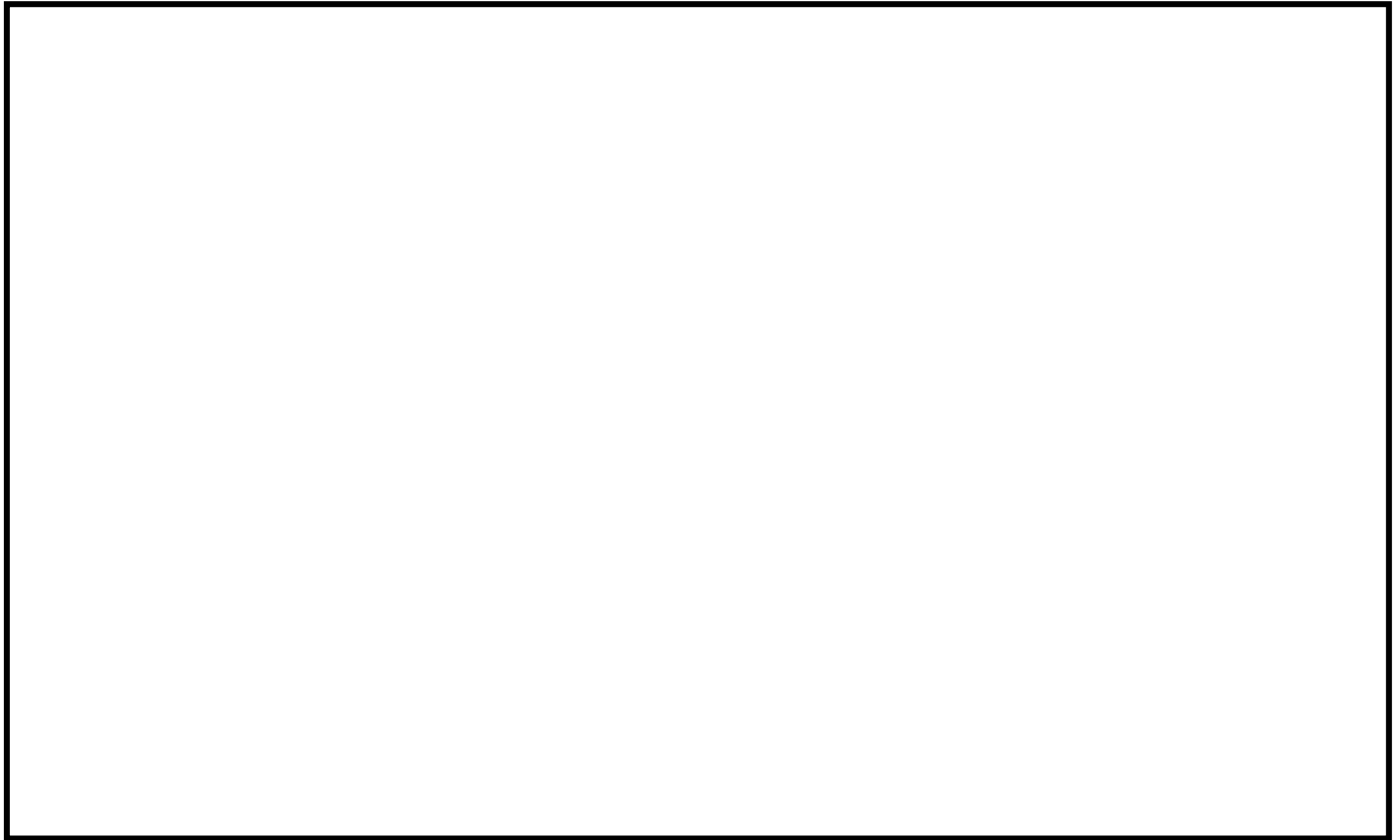
Fruits and vegetables were gathered from the summer harvest and stored on shelves and in large bins in the root cellar, which usually had a temperature between 33 and 42 degrees, even during the hottest summers. Norman's mother canned hundreds of jars of her garden vegetables, as well as fruits and jams to use all winter. Potatoes, onions, carrots and beets were stored in sacks or bins that were six feet high, three feet wide, and ten feet deep. That's a lot of potatoes, but the family usually ate potatoes twice a day. You couldn't say that the Carl family members were light eaters!

Growing up on a large farm was like having your own grocery store right outside your door. Fresh milk and eggs, chickens, pork and beef and the root cellar fruits and vegetables kept the family full and fed when the winter snows kept them at home for weeks at a time. Three cheers for root cellars! Rooty! Toot! Toot!

Find and circle the special story words. How many did you find?

use _____ fast _____ say _____ light _____ pick _____

Draw and label pictures of the shelves full of jars in the root cellar.



Fill in the Blanks

Read each sentence below. Circle the missing word and write it in the space.

1. Mother would _____ what she needed for supper .
pick peck

2. Some people _____ that root cellars were essential.
says say

3. The Carl family were not _____ eaters!
light lit

Yes or No?

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Did the Carl family have a root cellar? | yes | no |
| 2. Did they put their meat in there? | yes | no |
| 3. Would the food last all winter? | yes | no |
| 4. Were they light eaters? | yes | no |
| 5. Was the root cellar above freezing? | yes | no |

It's a Match!

Draw a line to connect the naming part of the sentence with the action part of the sentence. Read them to yourself to make sure that they make sense. The first one is done for you.

- Norman would make a fast trip to the root cellar.
- The family grew up on a large farm in North Dakota.
- Mother usually ate potatoes twice a day.
- She would pick what she wanted for supper.
- There had a root cellar behind the house.
- They were hundreds of jars of veggies and fruits.

Where did Norman grow up?

Did they store meat in the root cellar?

What kind of weather did they have in winter?

What did they use to keep meat cold in winter?

What did his Mother can from her garden?

