

Along with The Tobin Tree: Map



Chapter 1

1. Tobin is in the hospital, in a small town in Colorado. On page 4 she looks out the window, and beyond the town she sees mountain peaks in the morning sun. See the article **Colorado Photos** to get an idea of what it could look like. Just keep in mind that this is fiction, and you can make up the pictures in your mind as you read.

Chapter 3

1. The town and the Harpers' Ranch are not on the map, but you can imagine how they drive to the ranch. They go north out of town. (On pg. 9 Sadie said their ranch was north of town). There is a river on the left. Later they turn left, off the highway, and cross the river. Now they must be headed _____. They are now on the dirt road of Harper Ranch. They pass the Harpers' house, and soon the road takes them into the canyon. They follow the road through the canyon to the open valley of the Sweetwater ranch.
2. Find the canyon on the map. Mark the **righthand** side of the map with **E** for **East**.
3. Now you can **draw a compass rose** on the map to show north, south, east, and west.
4. Another important bit of information, not shown on the map, is the '**lay of the land**', meaning which parts are low and which parts are higher, like hills or mountains. On page 13, they are just coming to the Harpers' house. Sadie says, "This is the lower valley. See those rocks up ahead? The road to our ranch goes through a canyon to a higher meadow." And later, the story says, When the tires slipped on the dirt, Steve geared down for the steady climb. So, you know they are driving up, and the river is flowing down from the Sweetwater through the canyon to the Harpers' ranch. **Follow the river going upstream from the canyon all the way to the west side of the map.** The water flows out of the mountains, here, and then down to the ranch.
5. Look at the labels **North Ridge** and **South Ridge**. A "ridge" is a row of high hills or mountains. If you went along the *trail to the high meadows*, you would be going **up** in elevation. Find some other trails that go up from the valley.
6. Find the beaver pond. Is the water in the pond flowing **to** the river or **from** the river?
7. On page 17, Tobin rides with Cal to check the head gate (ditch gate). Find the paragraphs that describe where they go. Which direction did they go from the corral? Which ditch gate do you think they check? Which gate was John probably opening up? Tell how the ditches take water to the grass in the fields. Where does the water come from? Read the **Haying** article for more info.

Look at the Map Legend

1. What does **irrigated land** mean? Name the two big hay fields.
2. The East Field is dry. Why do you suppose it isn't used for growing hay?
3. What kind of plants are growing on the South Ridge?

Chapter 6

1. Read page 36. Which field of hay is ready to cut?
2. On page 41, the crew is ready to bale the last field. On page 42, they are driving out to the field in the truck. They cross the wooden timbers of the bridge. Find the bridge on the map. Which is the last field to be baled?

Chapter 9

1. In this chapter, the men on the haying crew are heading home to New Mexico. Use a map of Colorado and New Mexico. Which direction is New Mexico from Colorado?
2. After breakfast, the family hikes up the path to Jason's Rock. Find the trail on the map. Why do you think the path has so many switchbacks?
3. What are those big dark areas on the map? Look for a picture of rock outcroppings in the **Colorado Photos** article. How do they get to the top of the rock outcropping?
4. Imagine sitting with the family on Jason's Rock. They are up on the ridge, overlooking the ranch. What could you see?

Chapter 10

1. The picnic is at a lake on the Harper ranch. It's not on the map, but from the description, you can imagine where it is, and what it looks like there. Look in the **Colorado Photos** article to find a picture of a lake like the one they go to. There are woods all around and rocks along the edge for diving.

Chapter 12

1. Cal is driving to college in Denver. It is a long, three-hour drive from the ranch. What direction is Denver from the ranch? (Remember, the ranch is in the mountains.) Use a map of Colorado.
2. After Cal leaves, Sadie and Tobin go shopping in town for Tobin's school supplies. It takes about a half hour to get there. They have to drive east through the canyon to get off the Sweetwater Ranch and past the Harpers' house, and when they reach the highway they turn south. Using that information, you could draw a map to show the location of the town, and the ranches.
3. It is the last day before school starts and Steve suggests they go up to the glacier to do some sliding (glissading). As the trail starts out, they are going south and east from the house. Then the trail turns south and begins to climb to the high country. Find the trail.
4. In **Colorado Photos**, find the pictures of *tundra* above *treeline*. One of the pictures shows stunted trees (the Krumholtz Effect).
5. Find the picture of a lake in a cirque. Imagine a snow field (or remnants of a glacier) at the far end of the lake.

Chapter 13

1. On page 101, Tobin wanders in the field out beyond the barn. Find where that would be on the map.
2. On page 103, Tobin and Elizabeth set out to play. Follow on the map as you read and imagine where they walk. Mark the map where you think the tree has fallen into the river. (I hope you are upstream from the bridge.)
3. On page 110, they get cattails at the pond. Find the pond on the map.

Chapter 15

1. On page 117, they are sitting on the veranda in the evening. Which side of the house is the veranda on? Imagine the high peaks beyond the North Ridge. You can see a picture of the high peaks in the **Colorado Photos** article.

Chapter 16

1. In what direction do Tobin and Cal ride to get to the falls up the river?
2. Find the trail on the map. Their actual fishing spot, and the falls are not on the map, but you could draw an extension to the west side.

Chapter 17

1. The riders going on the roundup are in the corral. When they start out, which direction do they go? Where are the high meadows? Find the trail they take.
2. Tobin is at the house with Sadie. They work together in the kitchen, and then take a walk to the spring. On the map find their path and the spring. (A spring is a place where water comes out of the ground to the surface. Imagine a little pond at the base of a rock outcropping. A small, clear stream flows down the hill from the pond.)

Chapter 20

1. Tobin is suspended from school, and when she takes a break from her assignments, she and John ride out to check on the cattle. Where are the cattle?
2. Then they ride down to the bridge. Where do they go from there? Find their trail.
3. Stop at the place called the *overlook into the canyon*. Imagine what the view must be like looking down from there.
4. Follow the trail to the north and stop where John and Tobin hike to the outcropping for a *view of the Never Summer Range*. The word *range*, here, means a row of mountains. (See the first picture in the **Colorado Photos** article.)
5. John talks about his ancestors (page 161-162). On a map of western states, you can find the reservations of the Ute and Navajo tribes at the intersection of Utah, Nevada, New Mexico and Colorado.

Chapter 22

1. Tobin learns that John will be going elk hunting with his relatives. On a map of the western states, you can find the town of Chama, New Mexico, near the border between Colorado and New Mexico. They probably hunt in the forest north of there.

Chapter 27

1. Cal's roommate in college is from LA. You will need a map of California to find it! What does LA stand for?
2. On page 216 the family rides down to the bridge and then they head west. Where are they going?
3. Find their destination on the map.

Chapter 29

1. Sadie and Tobin are cross-country skiing along the river when Steve drives down from the house and comes to a stop at the bridge. Sadie tells Tobin to hurry and they get in. The car speeds off, heading for the canyon. They are almost out of the canyon when a big black pickup truck blocks their way. Find a place on the map where that scene might take place.

Chapter 32

1. It is the day of the winter solstice. The family rides out to find a special log to burn. Find the path they take, and locate the *blow down area* where they find the log.
2. They choose the trunk of the fallen tree for their Yule Log, but something important is left in its place. (Page 252) Explain.

Chapter 34

1. Steve, Sadie, and Tobin are flying to Boston so Tobin can see her family's home. You will need a map of Massachusetts to find the city of Boston.
2. Which direction does the plane go from Denver? What ocean is Boston near?

Chapter 36

1. Cal comes home from college for the weekend. Tobin has been sick for a whole week, but Cal suggests skiing to the falls up the river for a picnic. Tobin wants to try. Find the trail they take.
2. The falls are actually off the map, but maybe you've already added an extension in Chapter 16 to show their fishing spot. The falls are up stream from where they fished.

Now that you know the Sweetwater Ranch:

1. What places were your favorites?
2. Choose a spot on the map that you would like to visit.
3. Find places you'd like to go that weren't visited in the story.
4. One thing mentioned only briefly, by Cal, at the picnic in Chapter 36, is the sport of ice climbing. There are areas in Colorado that are famous for both **technical rock climbing** and **ice climbing**.
5. **Kayaking**, and **river rafting** are other sports that have become important in Colorado where rivers run fast, and "running a river" is exciting.
6. When you write a story, consider making a map for your reader to follow.