Veronica looked over from her desk and whispered to me when she saw Mrs. Hindler go to the supply closet and take out the construction paper.


But it wasn’t no big secret or surprise. All the girls around was whispering the same thing: family trees. You get decimals in sixth grade, least in our school, at least our town of Highriver. Decimals in Geography, South America, with the capitals and major products and of mountains you can’t spell or, not even if you practice at and study.

And family trees. Family was something Mrs. Hindler had done the sixth grade at the beginning every year, so me and Veronica it was coming.

Mrs. Hindler stood in front of the class with a piece of construction paper all marked so’s it looked like an apple up got all with people’s names printed right inside apples.

Then she showed us on board, with chalk, how it worked.
put your own name in first, right in the middle apple,
with birthday printed in smaller, underneath. Then
your surprise us written girls all
your folks become apples on the. Mrs. Hindler showed us how she
for limbs chalk
had done he he knew she
Ralph Weaver (Weaver her name, too, she said, she got
married to Mr. Hindler) his birthday. Then, under that, it
“Dec.”
“What does Dec mean?” Roger Watkins out. Old Roger, he always
called showed trees
forgot to raise his hand, so’s he seemed rude, but really he wasn’t so bad.
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You get decimals in sixth grade, least in our school, at least our town of Highriver. Decimals in Math, and in Geography, South America, with the capitals and major products and all you family names of mountains you can’t spell or pronounce, not even if you practice at home and study.

And family trees. Family was something Mrs. Hindler had done the sixth grade at the beginning every year, so me and Veronica knew it was coming.

Mrs. Hindler stood in front of the class with a piece of construction paper all marked so’s it looked like an apple

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put your own name in first, right in the middle apple, with birthday printed in smaller, underneath. Then your surprise us written girls all your folks become apples on the. Mrs. Hindler showed us how she for chalk a brother named Ralph, and where had done he knew she had written his apple: Ralph Weaver (Weaver her name, too, she said, she got married to Mr. Hindler) his birthday. Then, under that, it was said apple “Dec.”

“What does Dec mean?” Roger Watkins out. Old Roger, he always called showed trees forgot to raise his hand, so’s he seemed rude, but really he wasn’t so bad.