

Graphic Organizers

- ✓ Diagrammatic shapes to generate or organize thought and
 - Make visible the invisible process of thought
 - Make concrete the abstract structure of comprehension
 - Make memorable the forgettable details of text
- ✓ May be teacher-made, cooperatively-made, or student-created
 - See ch. 8, pp. 248-281, Vaca & Vaca

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Notes:

Graphic organizers are tools that serve the reader to:

- illustrate comparisons/contrasts
- distinguish main ideas & supporting details
- map story structure
- display steps in a process
- separate fact and opinion
- provide a structure for "real life" problem solving and decision making
- distinguish various "tokens" or "types" based on specified criteria

Teacher-Made Graphic Organizers

- ✓ Use text language to display relationships of ideas in text
- ✓ Provide students with a road map for text
- ✓ Organize students' learning from text by providing the skeleton which their reading can "fill out"
- ✓ Give students a scaffold onto which to build understandings

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Notes:

There are two major reasons that a teacher might want to hand a prepared graphic organizer to students:

- 1) To provide the students with an introductory overview of a topic, lesson or unit to be taught
- 2) To give the students an "outline" of the text that allows them to partially complete with their prior knowledge and fill in gaps by reading.

Cooperatively-Made Graphic Organizers

- ✓ Provide context for “guided practice” in creating graphics when teacher and students work together
- ✓ Provide a previewing tool for text that creates a concrete product of text survey
- ✓ Socializes the normally solitary act of reading

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Notes:

Students can very effectively work together to select or design a graphical form that they can use in reading a text together. For example, graphics can be incorporated into reciprocal teaching activities of predicting, questioning, clarifying, and summarizing.

Student-Generated Graphic Organizers

- ✓ May reflect unique understandings of text
- ✓ Put each person's comprehension into "display," thus enriching all comprehension
- ✓ May be linked to vocabulary development where students "manipulate" key concept terms from the text

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Notes:

Students may eventually have access to a file of organizers from which they select for use as needed. (This will require declarative, procedural, and conditional knowledge.) If different students choose different graphics, then students may see the same text reflected in multiple formats. This will make the point that "when two people read the same thing, it's not the same thing." Even more importantly, being able to make choices among alternatives is the essence of conditional knowledge.

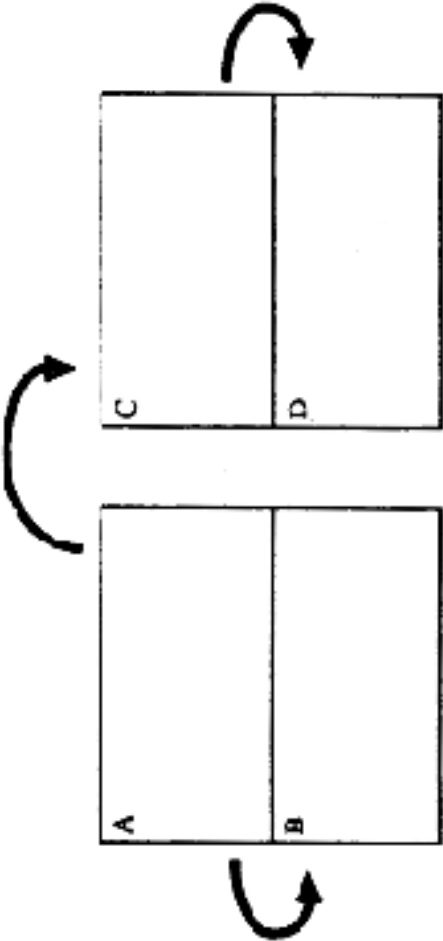
Sample Organizer Templates

✓ [Click here](#) for a library of organizer templates that you may print for your own use.

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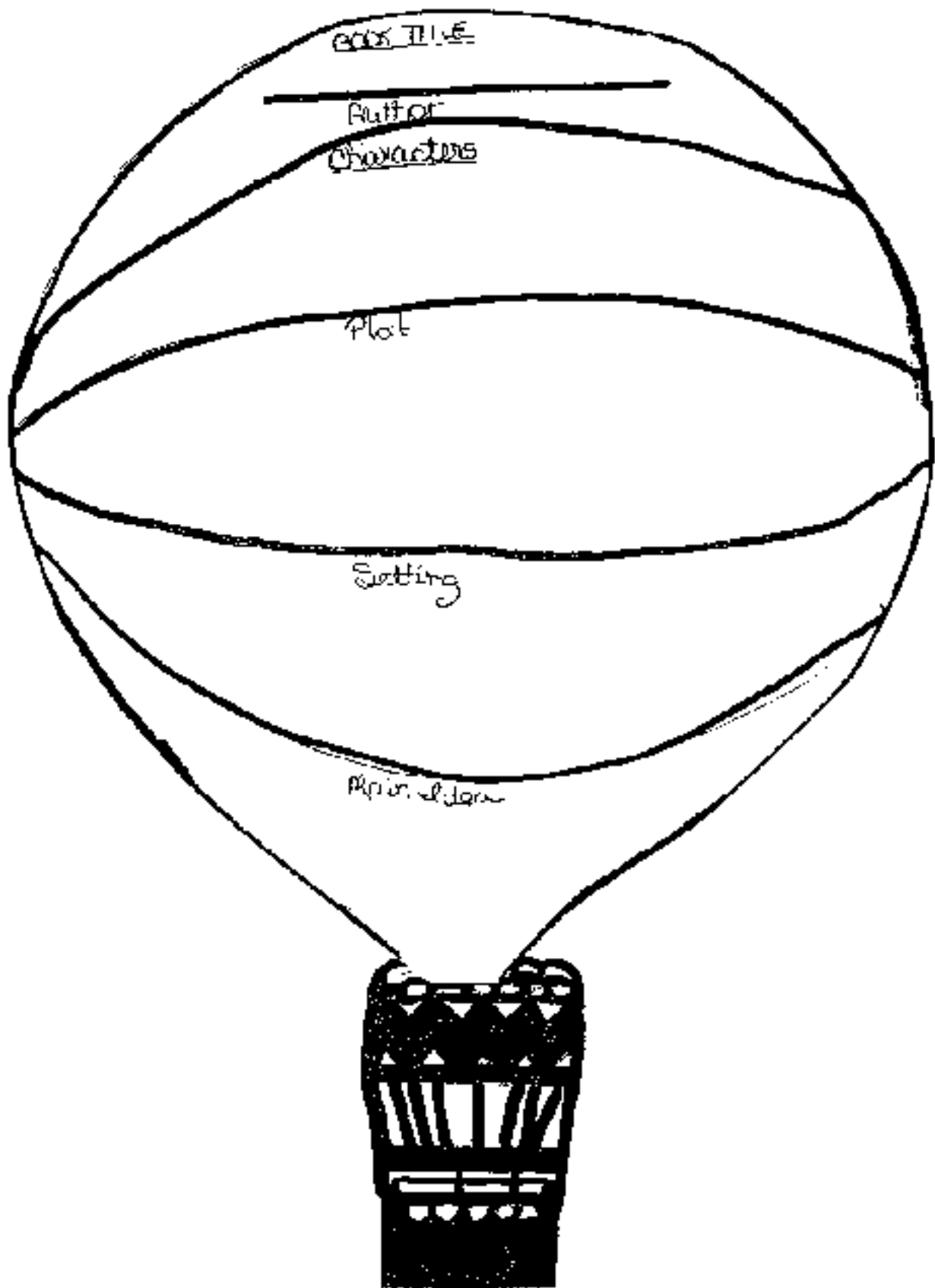
Analogy Analysis



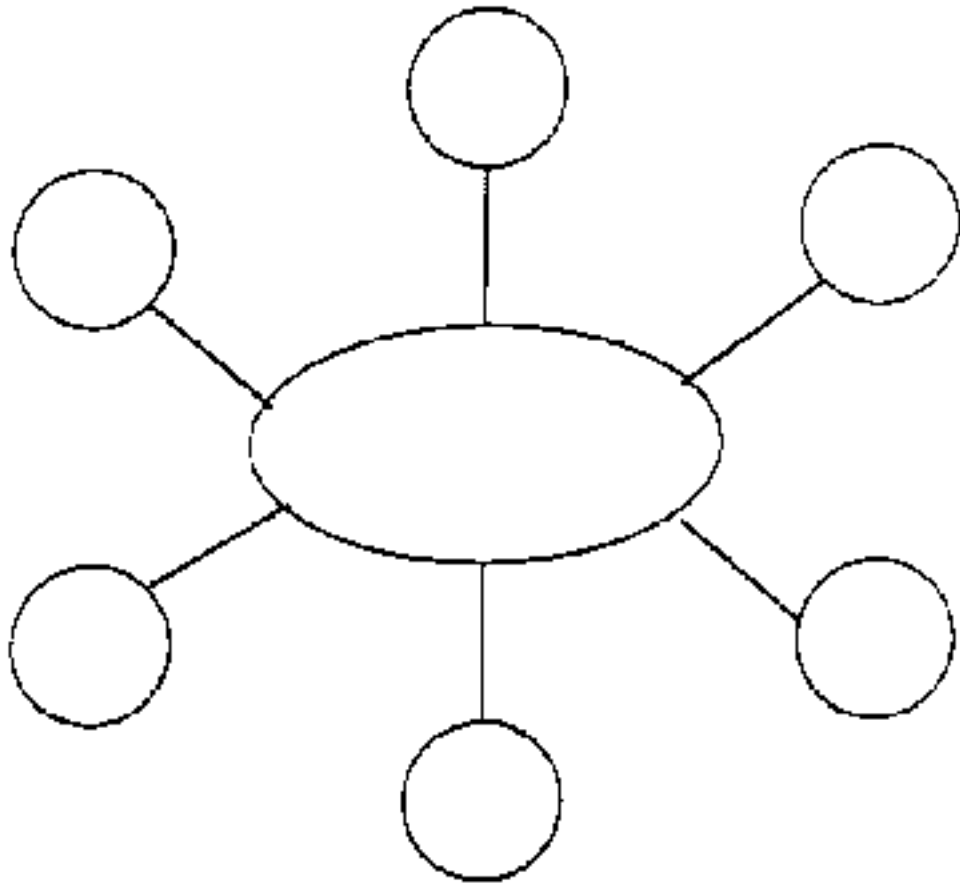
A:B

A:C

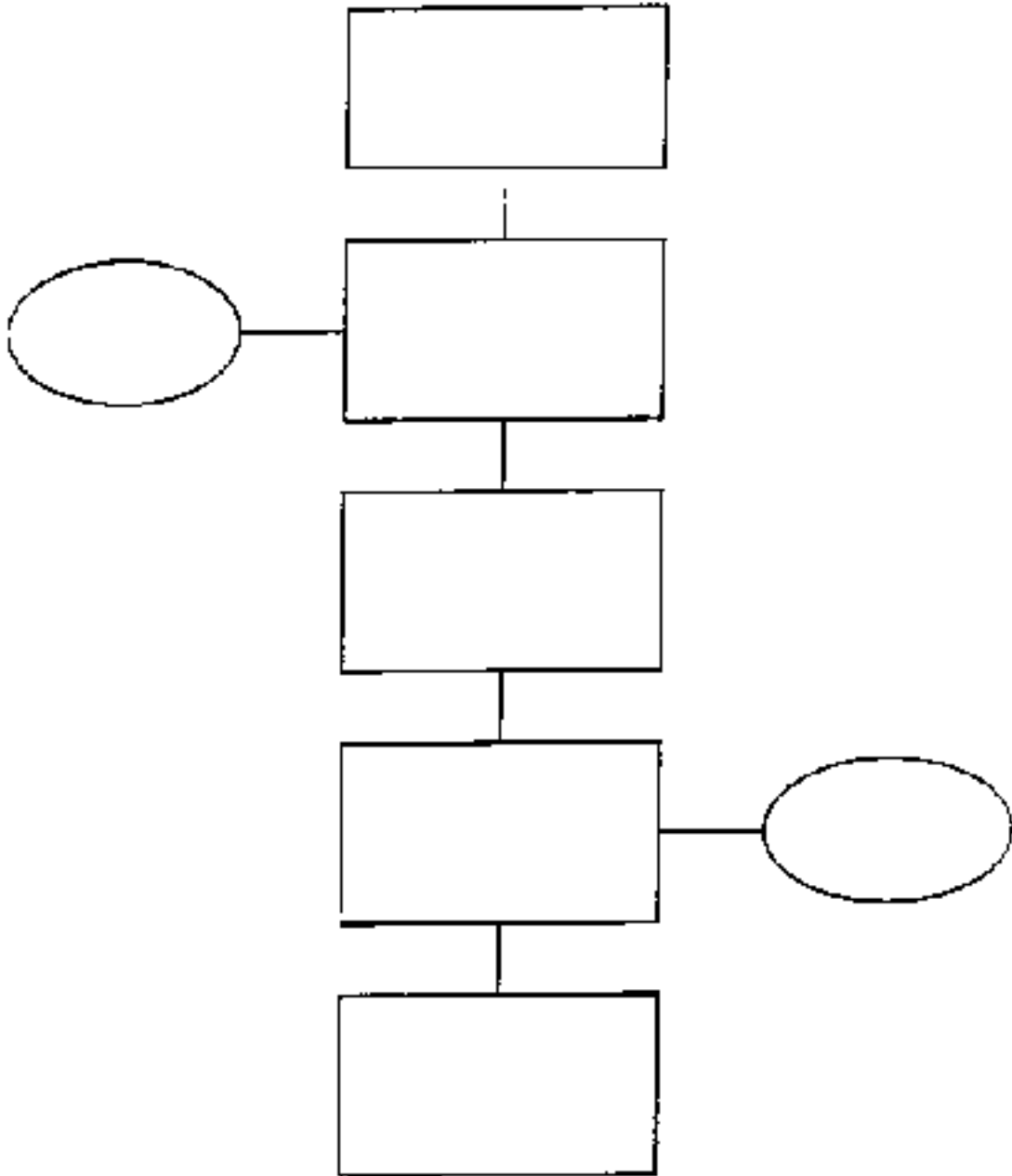
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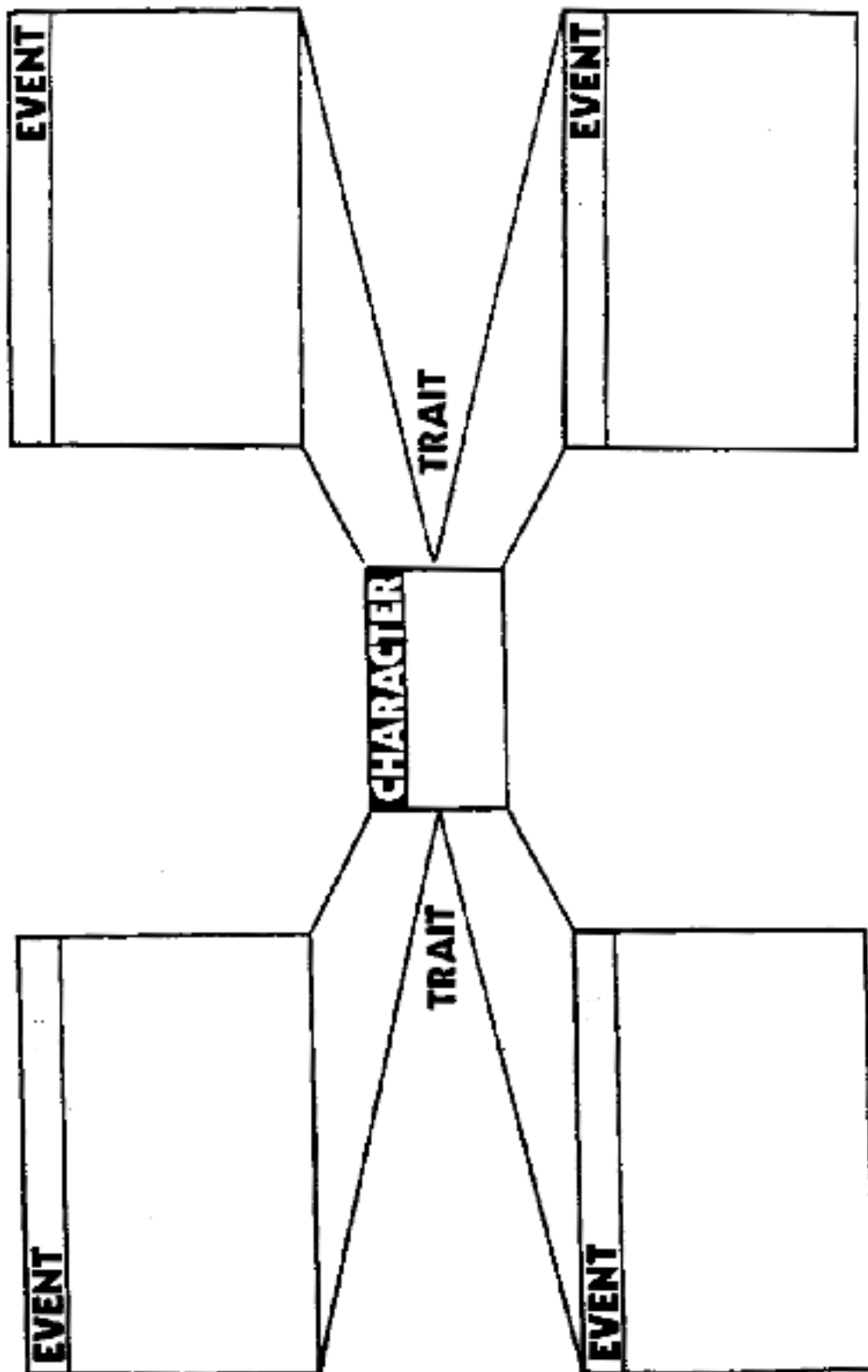


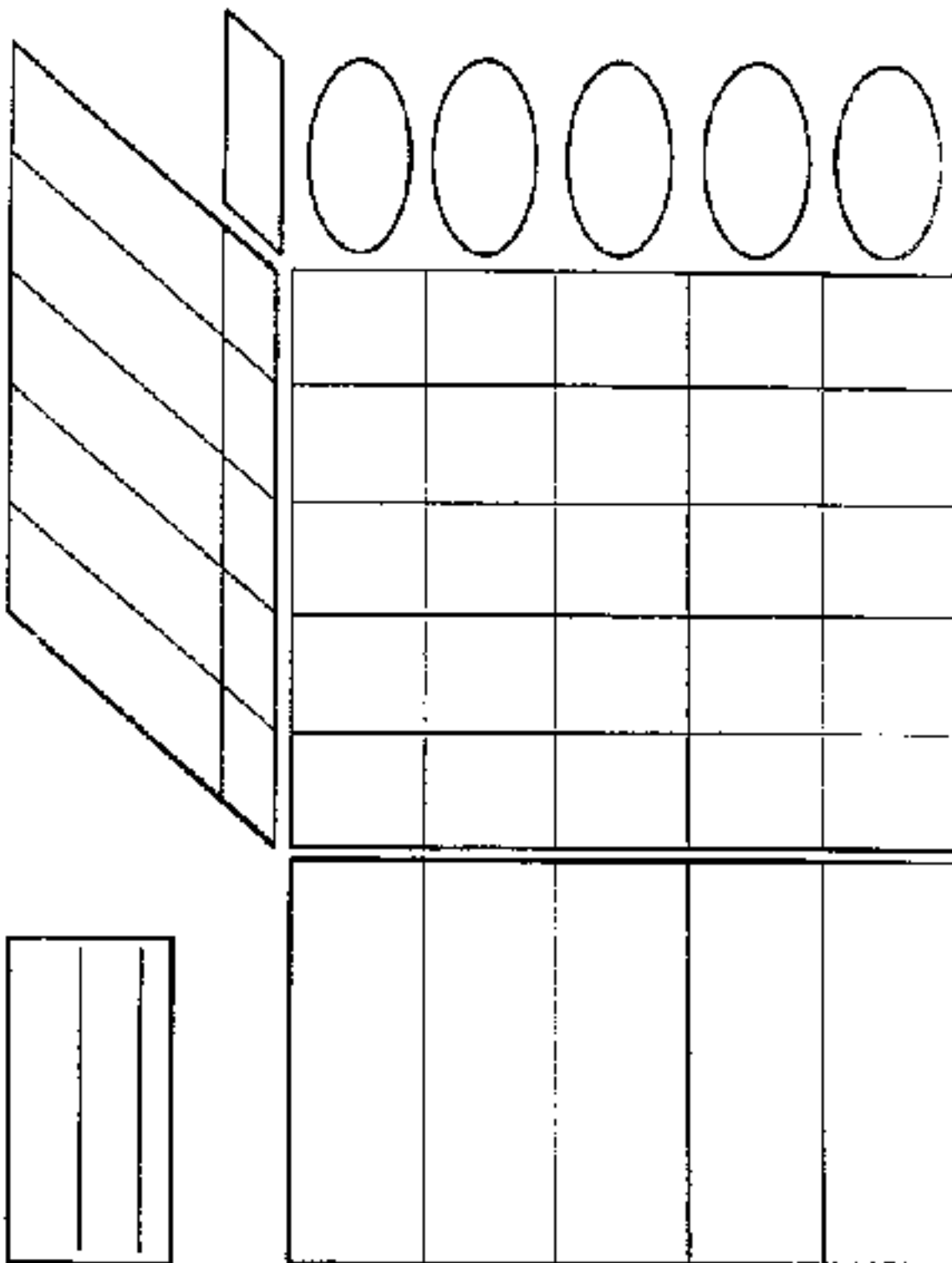
THE WHEEL

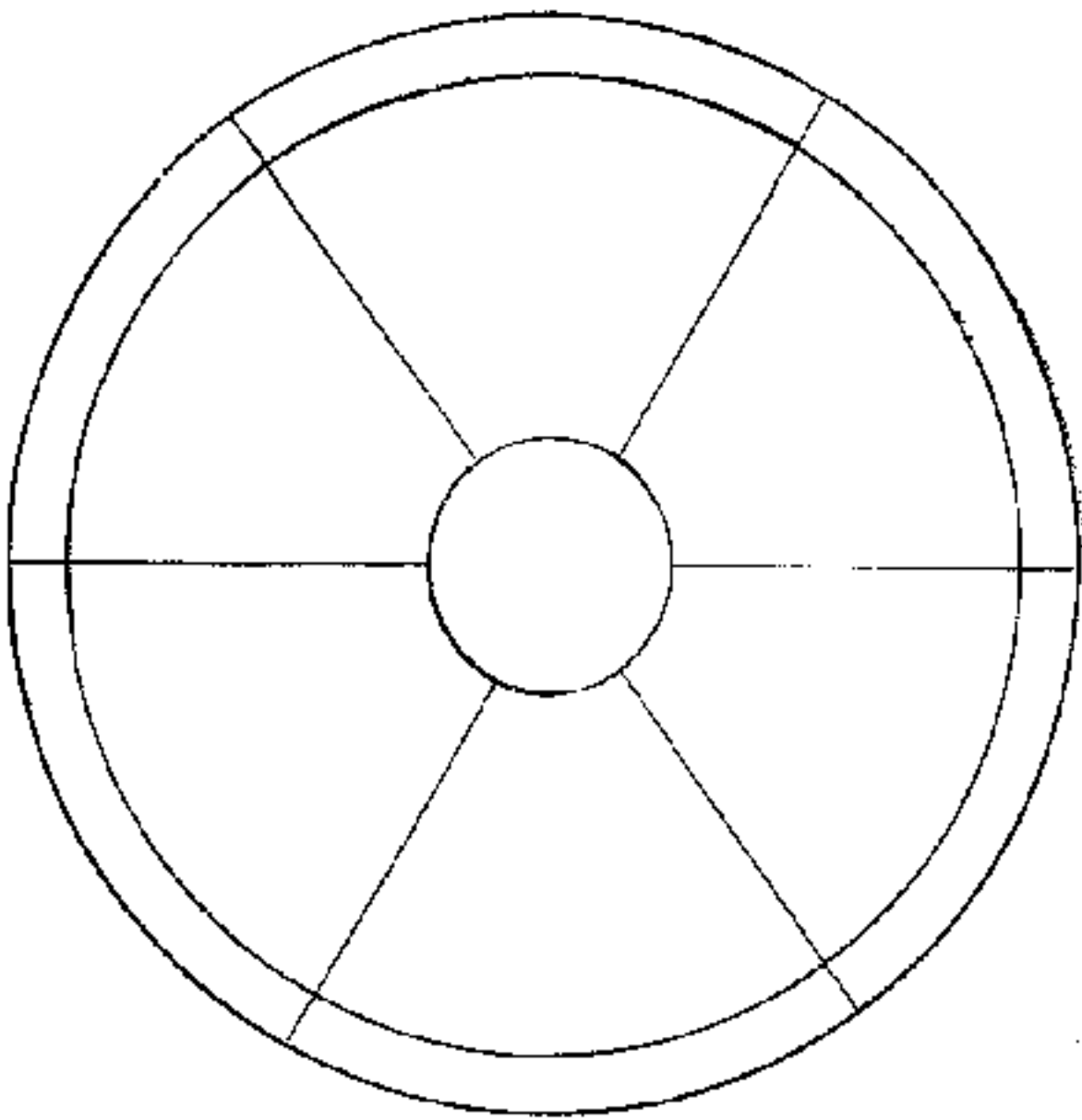


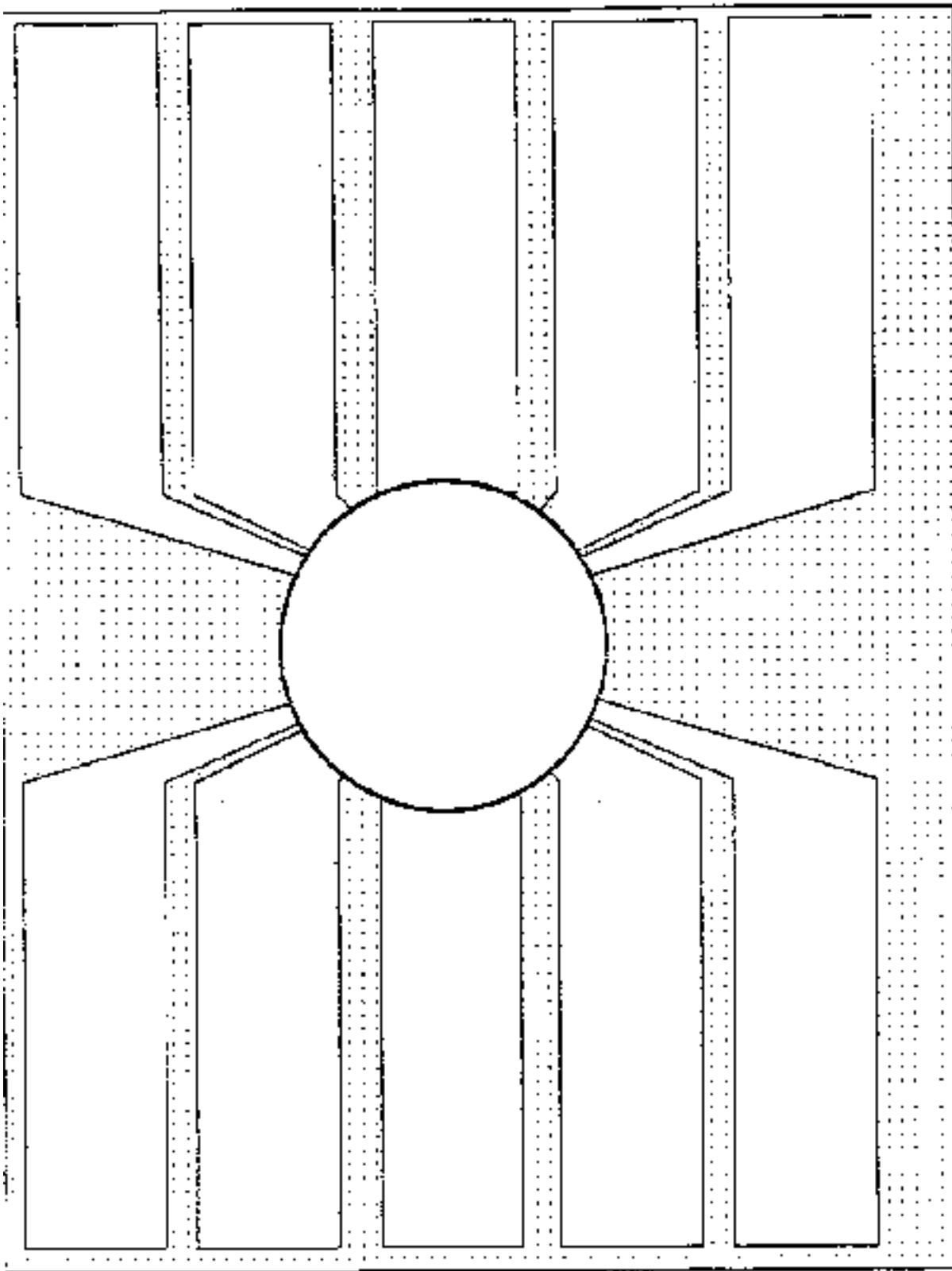
THE CHAIN



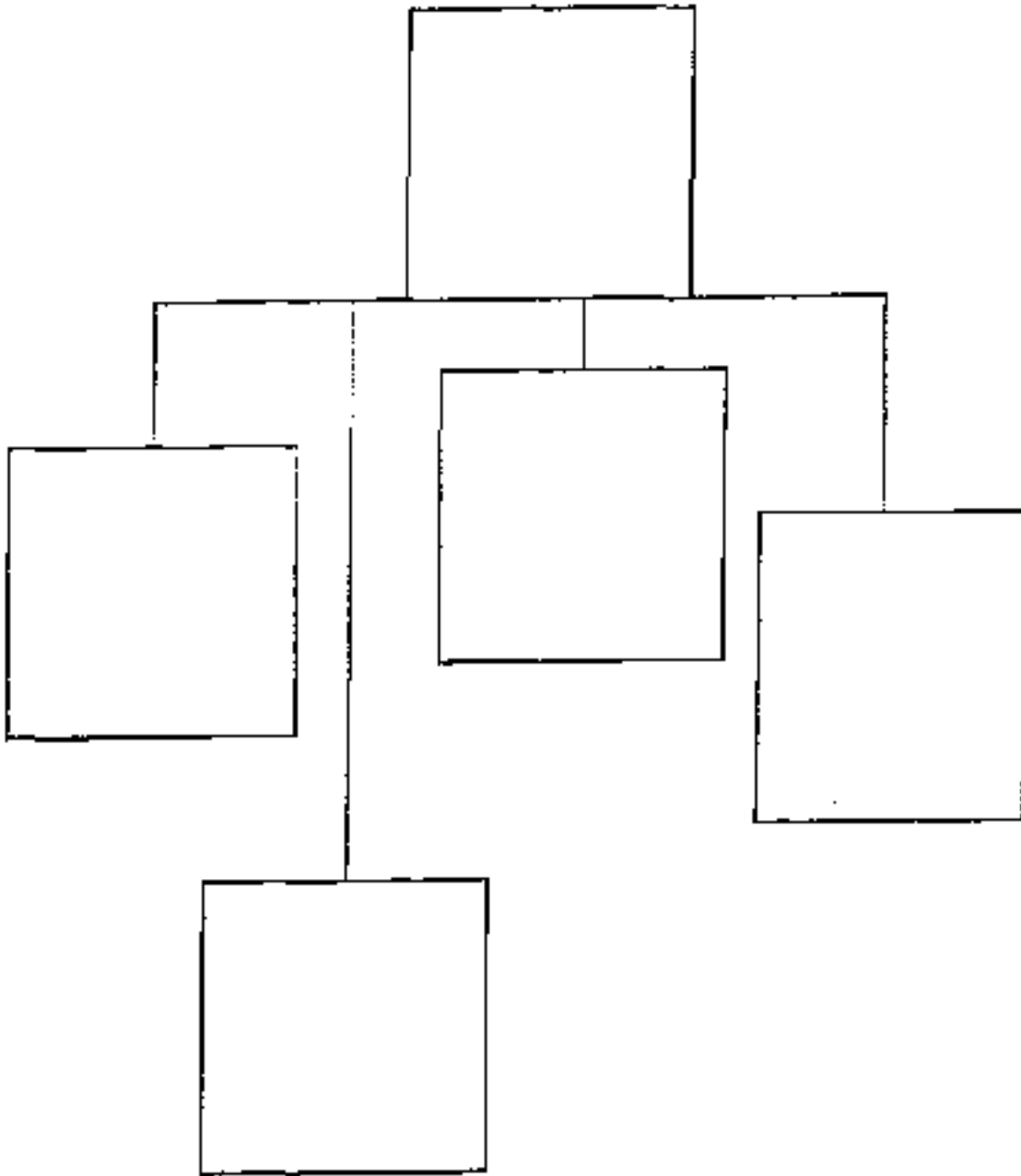








DANGLING BOXES



Decision-Making Model

Problem	Goal(s)

Alternatives	Pros \oplus & Cons \ominus
	\oplus
	\ominus
	\oplus
	\ominus
	\oplus
	\ominus
	\oplus
	\ominus

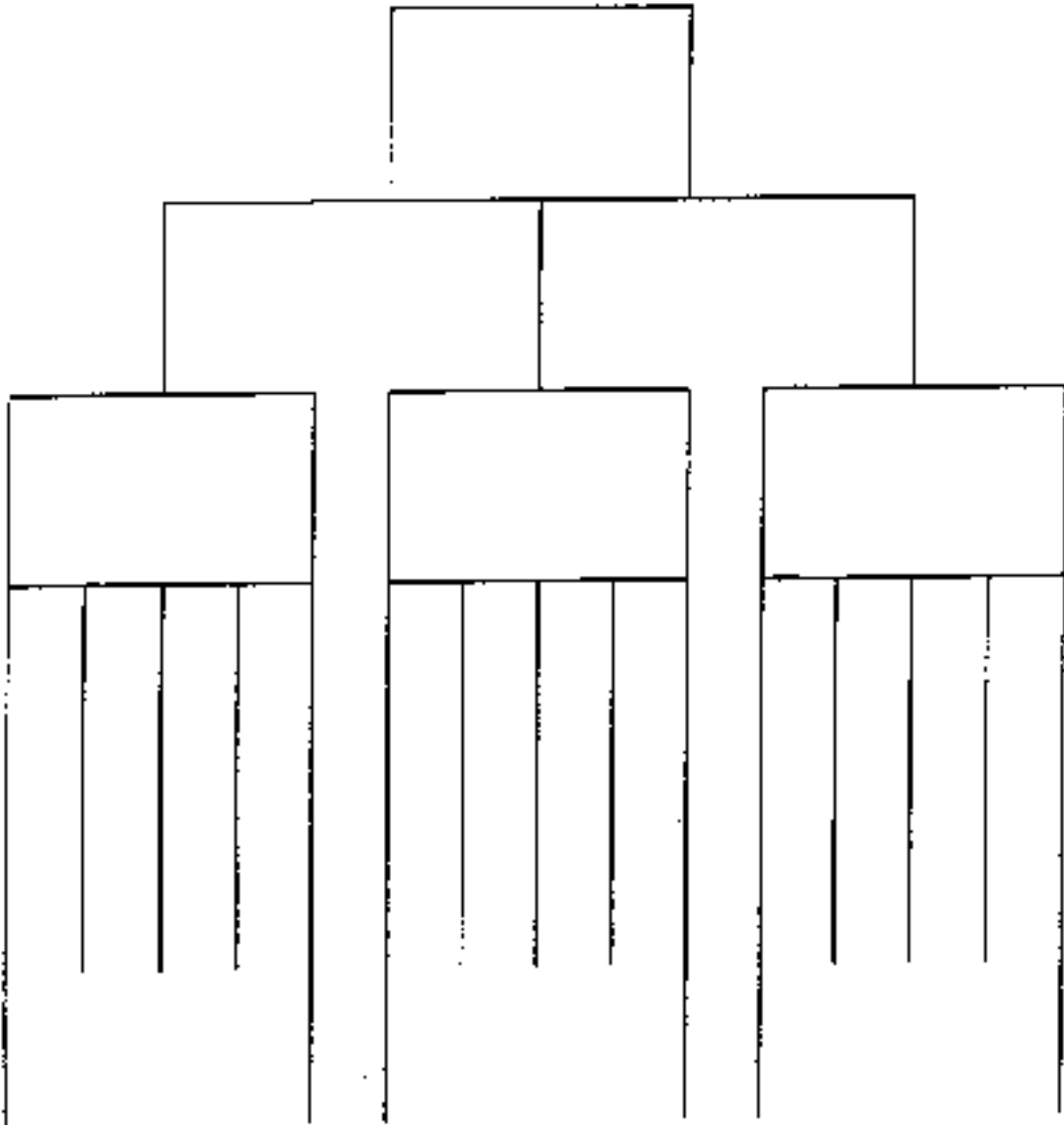
Decision(s)	Reason(s)

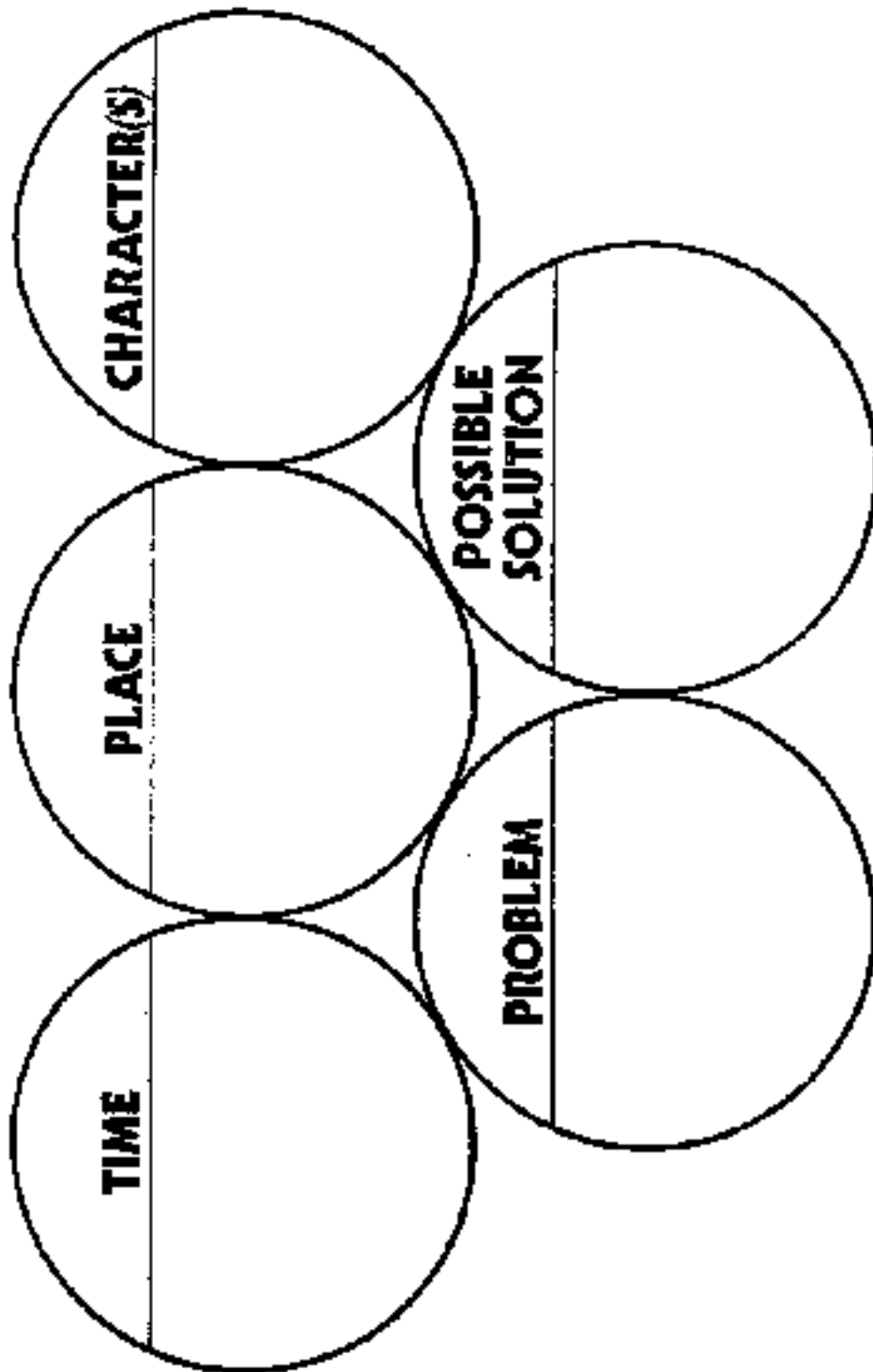
DETAILS

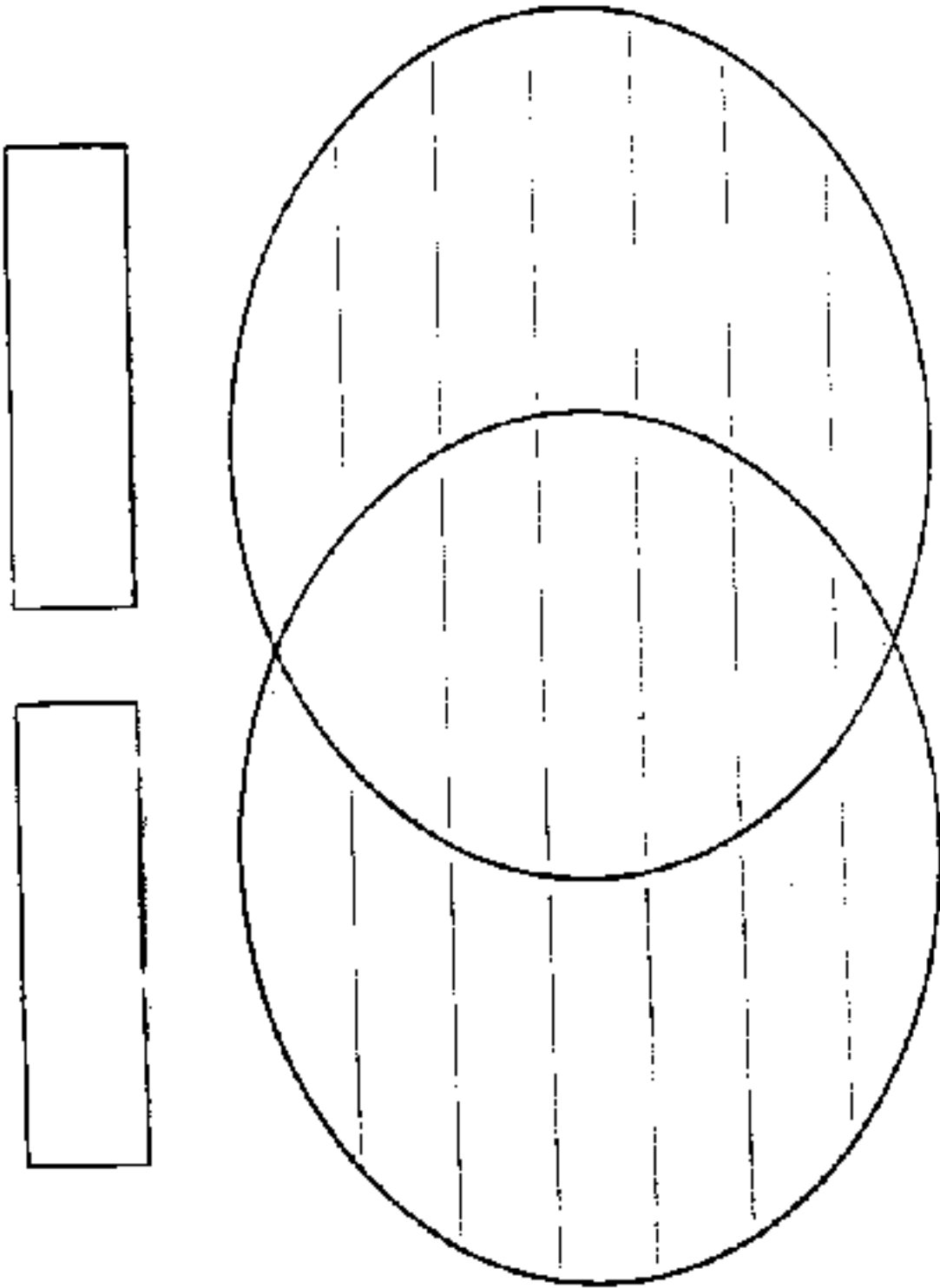


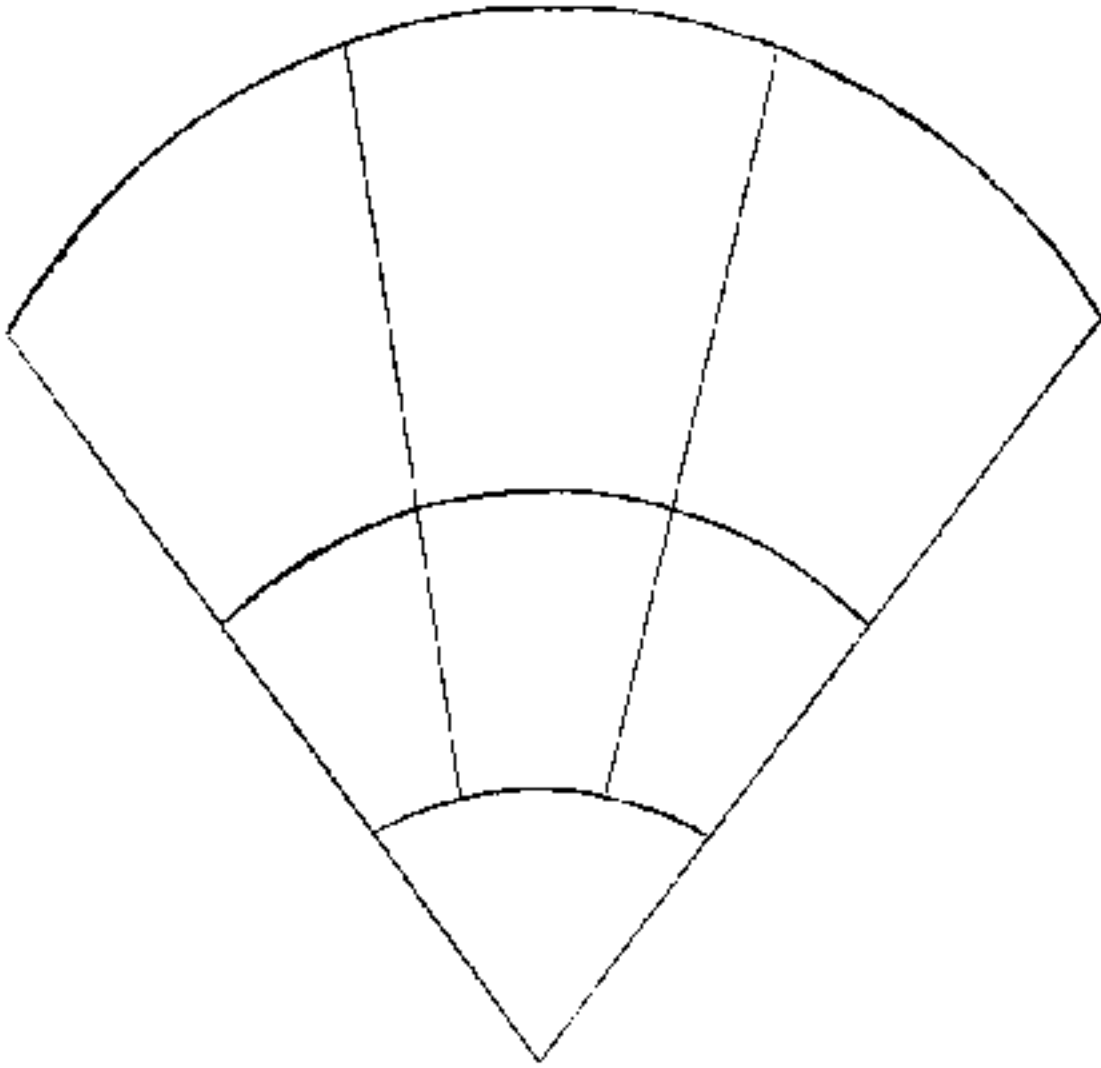
**MAIN
IDEA**

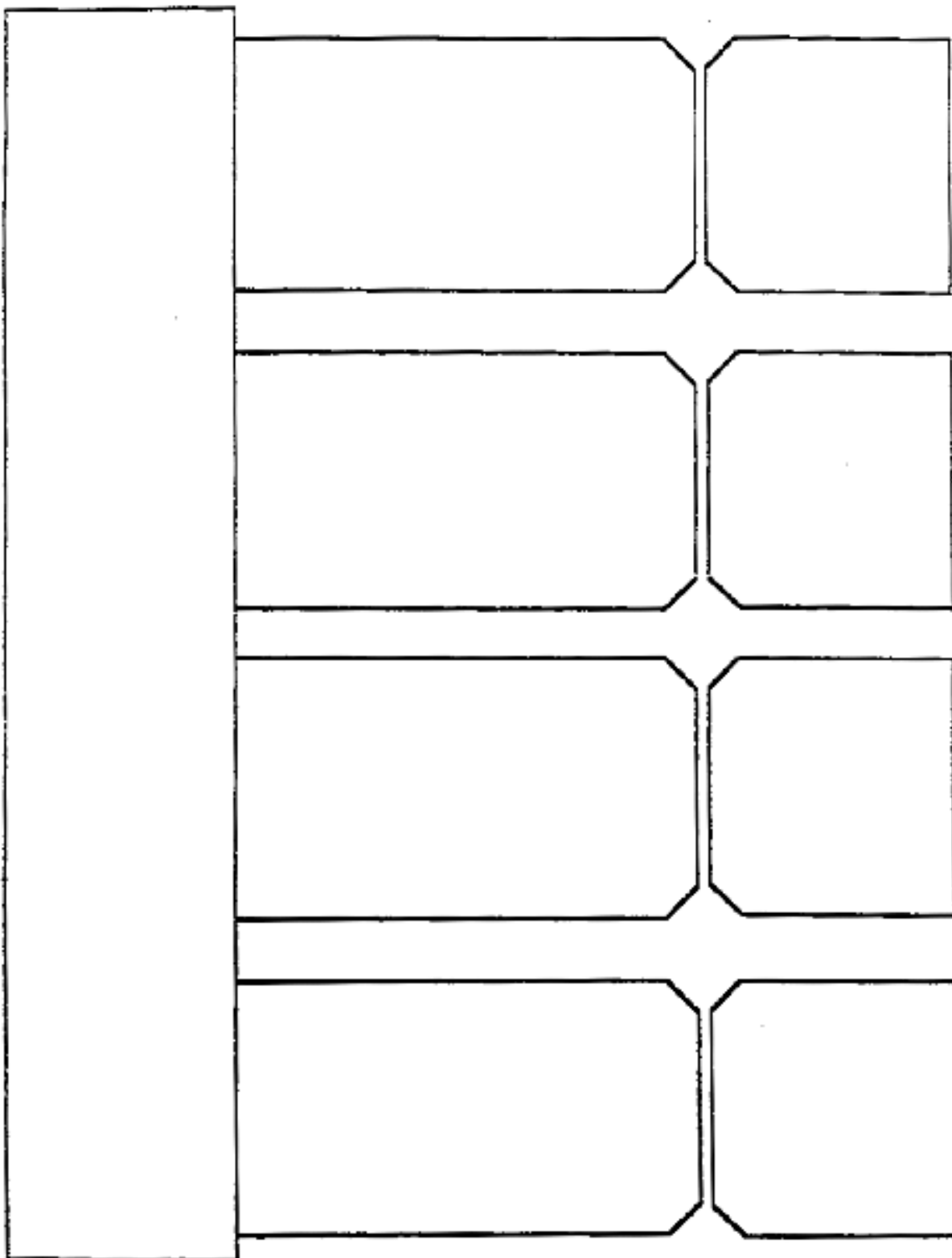
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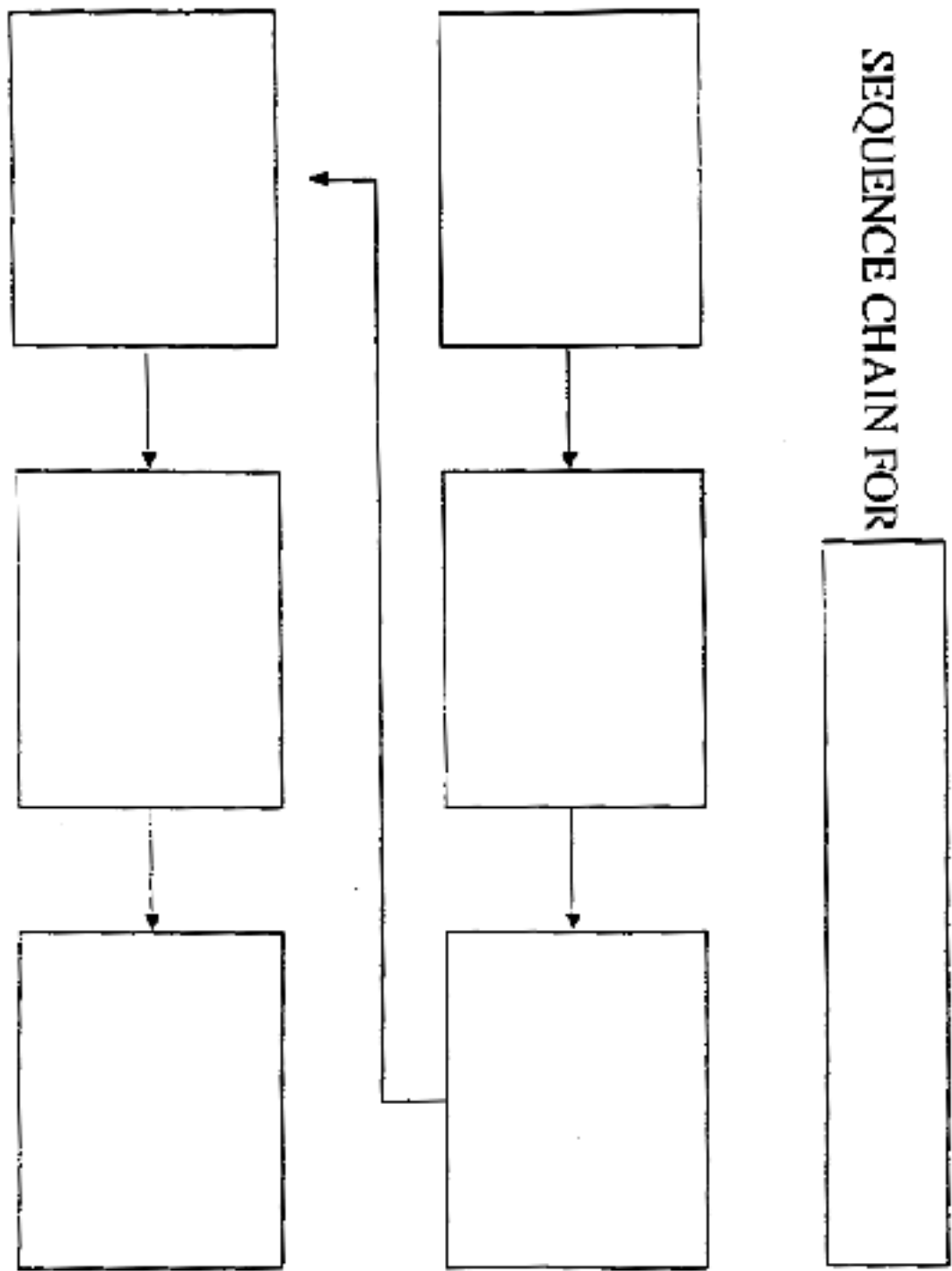


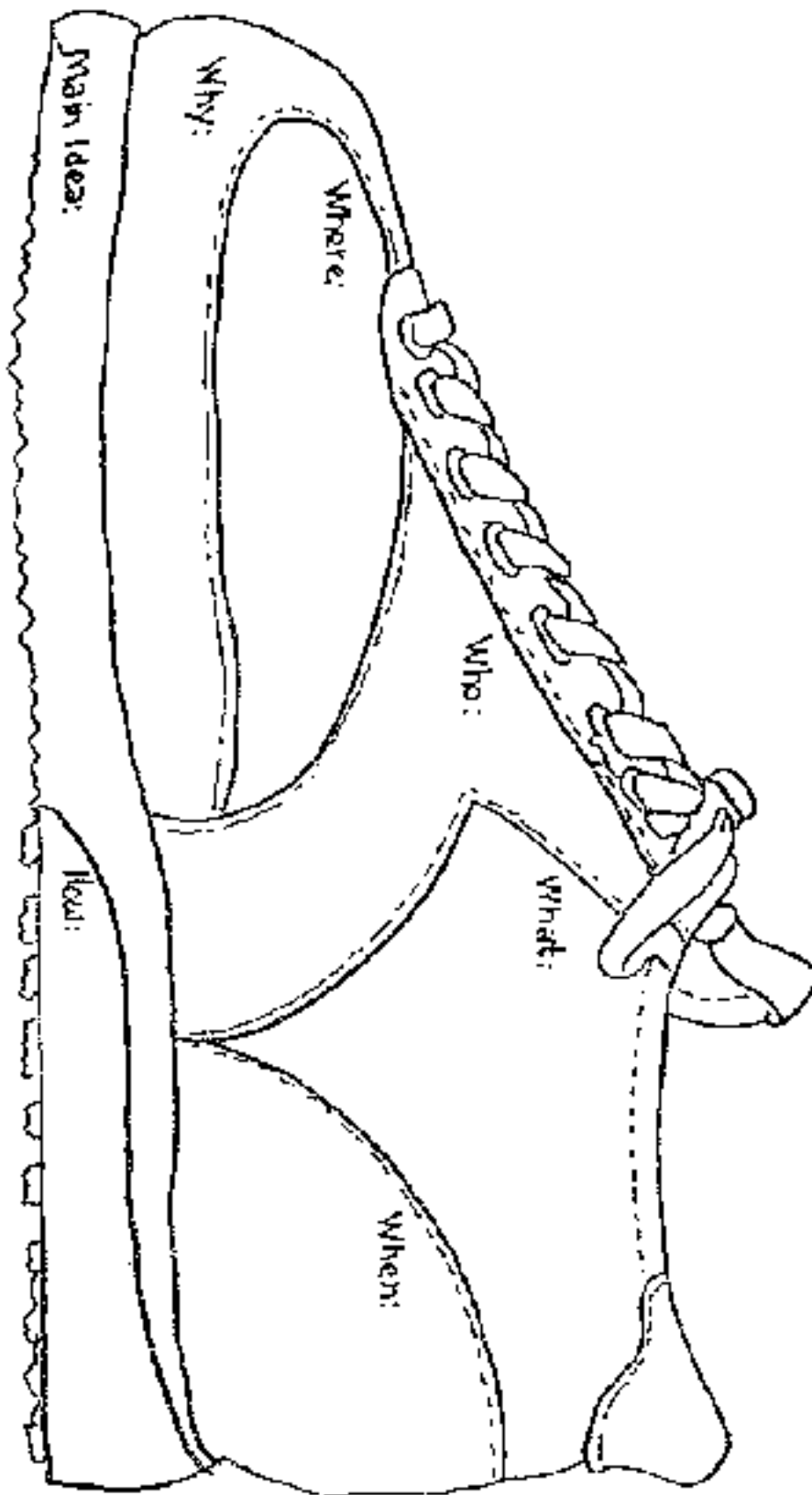


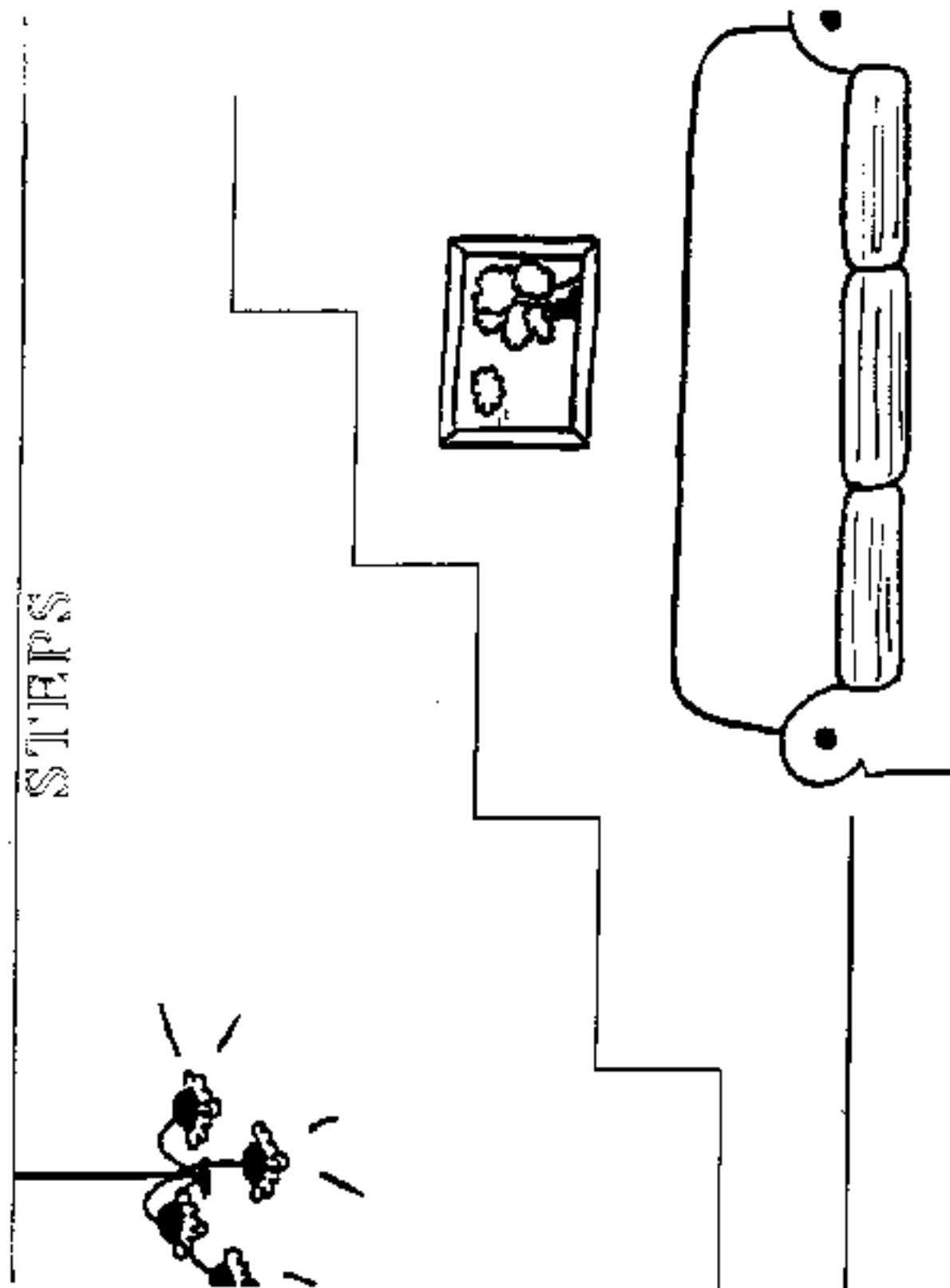


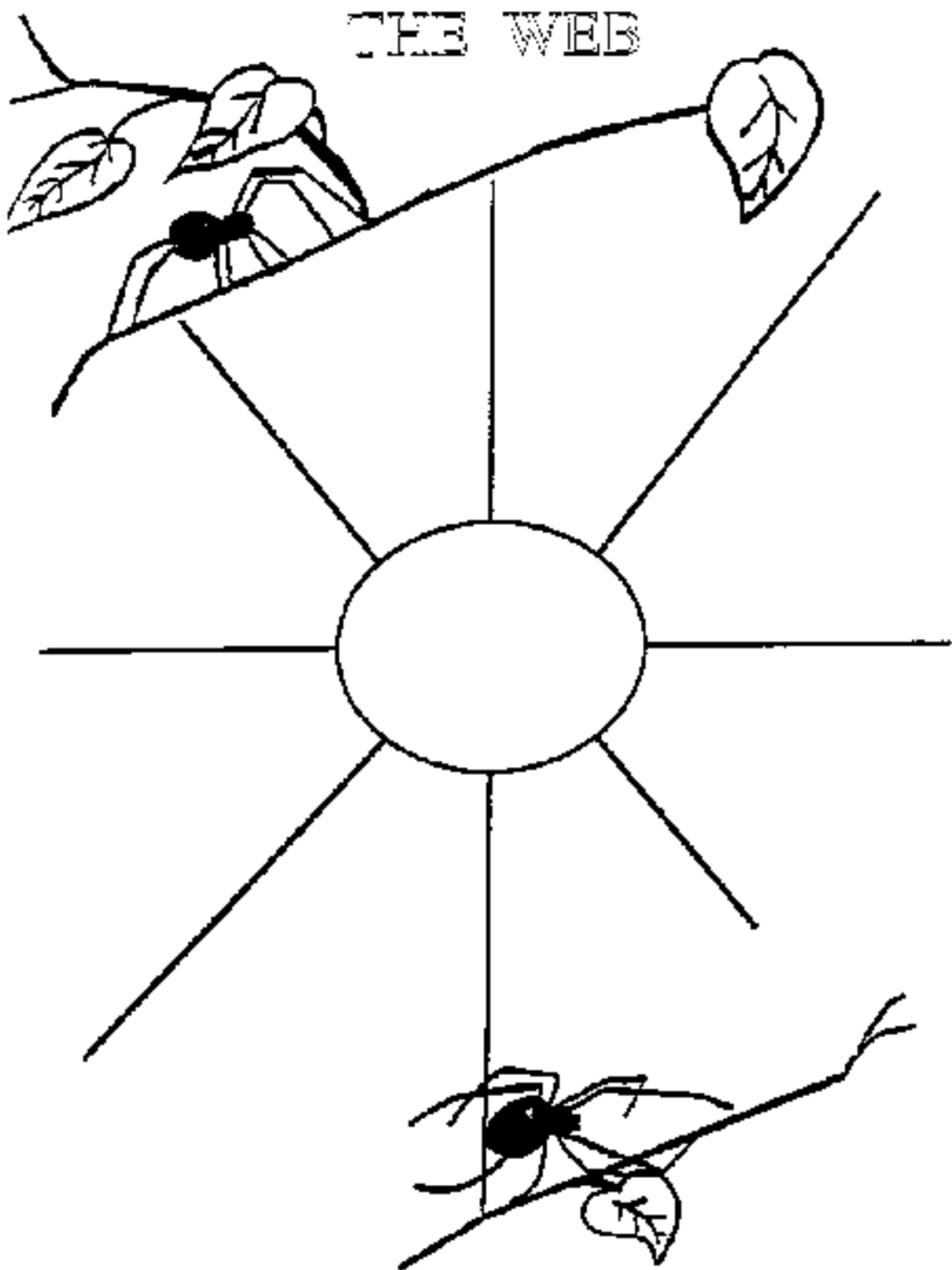


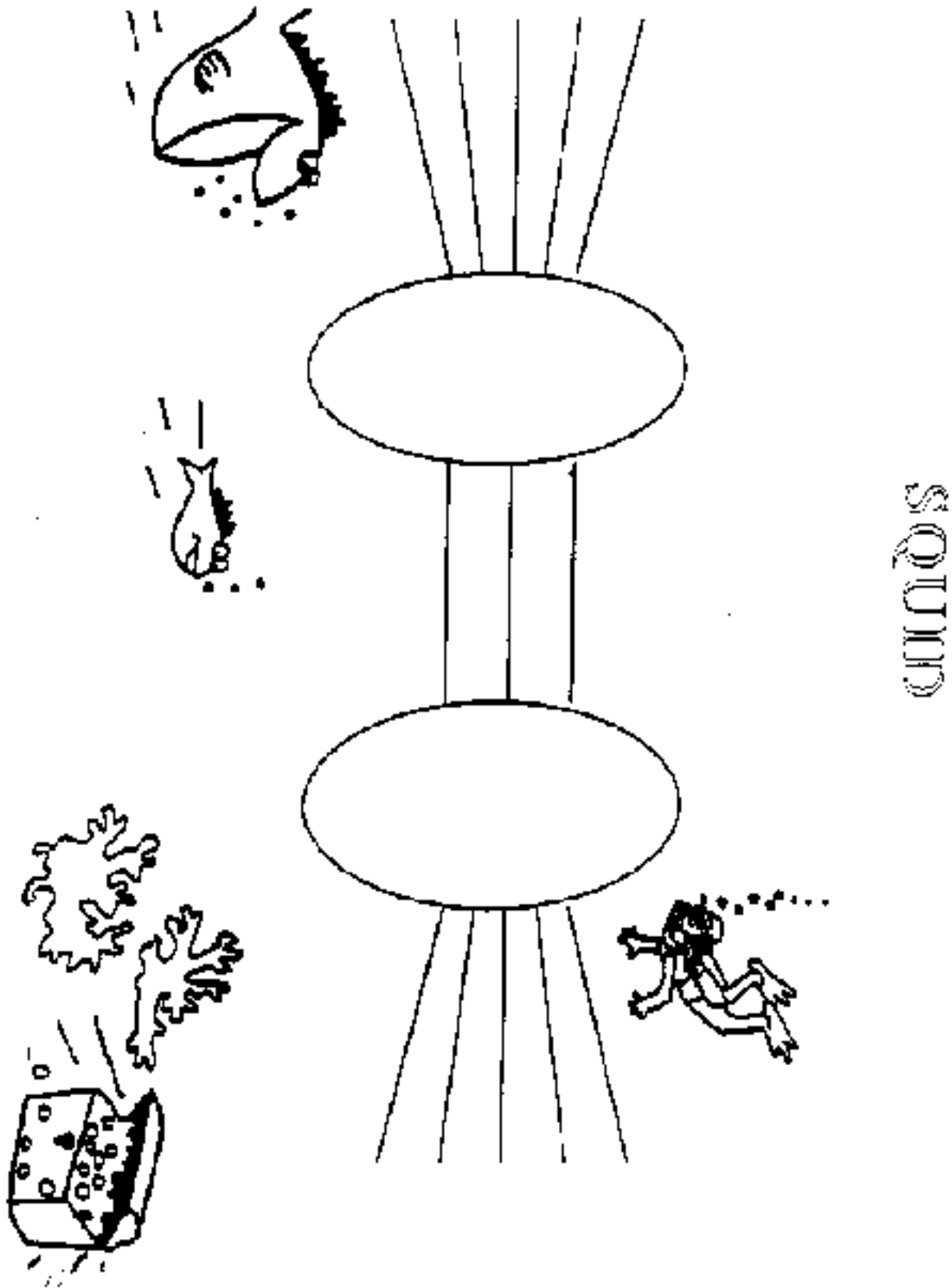




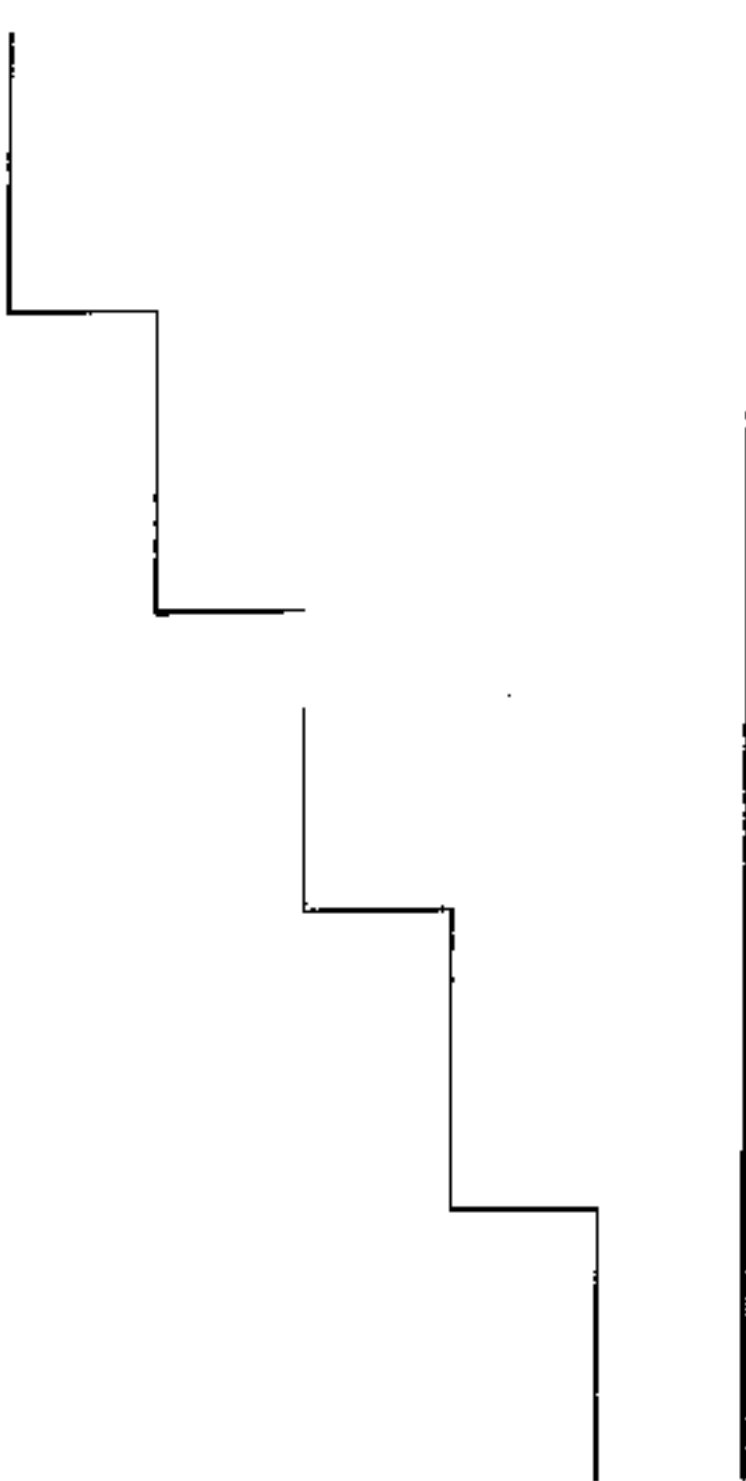








STEPS



STORY MAP

Title: _____

Setting:

Characters:

Problem:

Event 1 _____

Event 2 _____

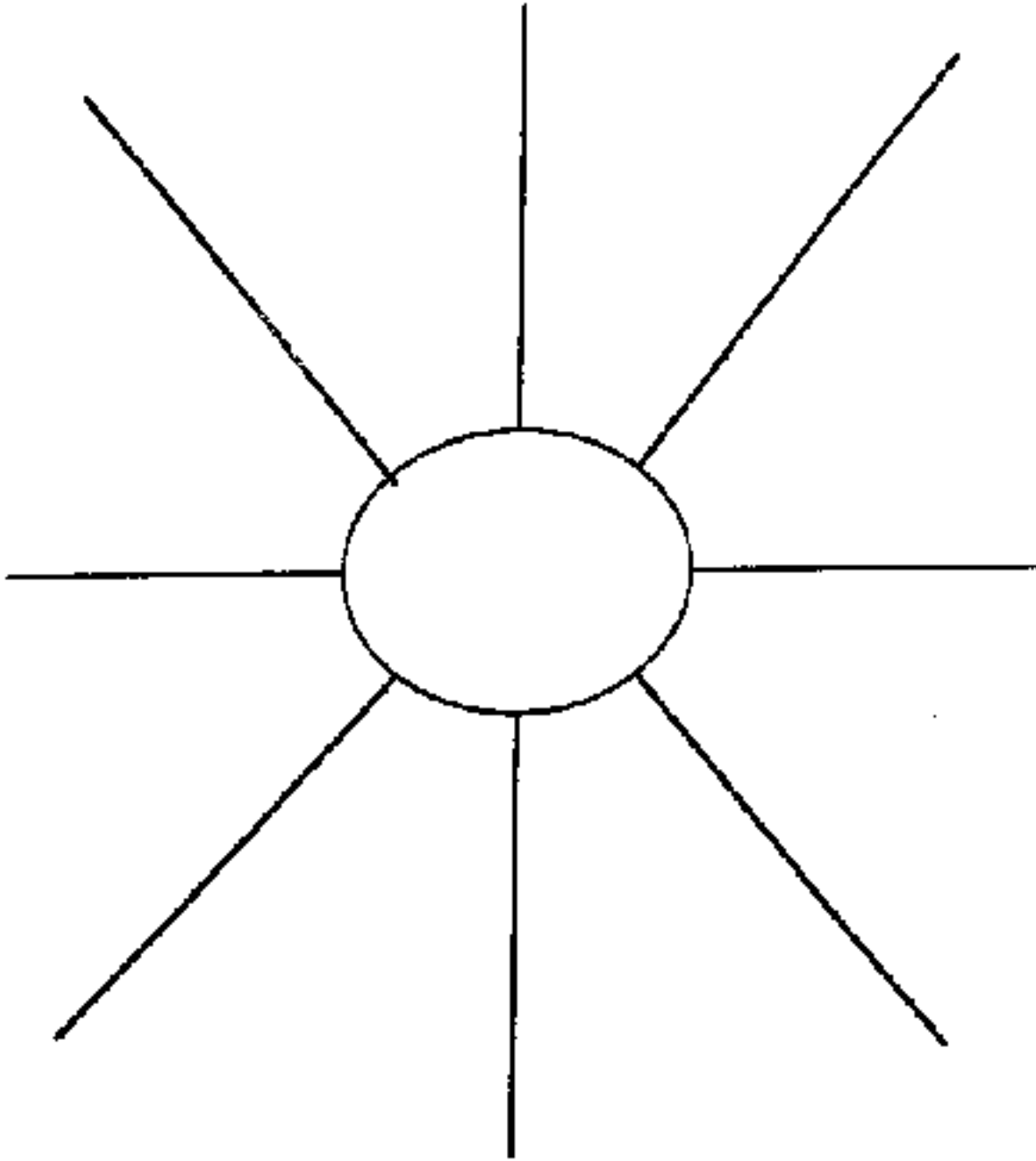
Event 3 _____

Event 4 _____

Event 5 _____

Solution:

THE WEB



Student-Generated Graphic Organizers

- **May reflect unique understandings of text**
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