

The Go-Boat

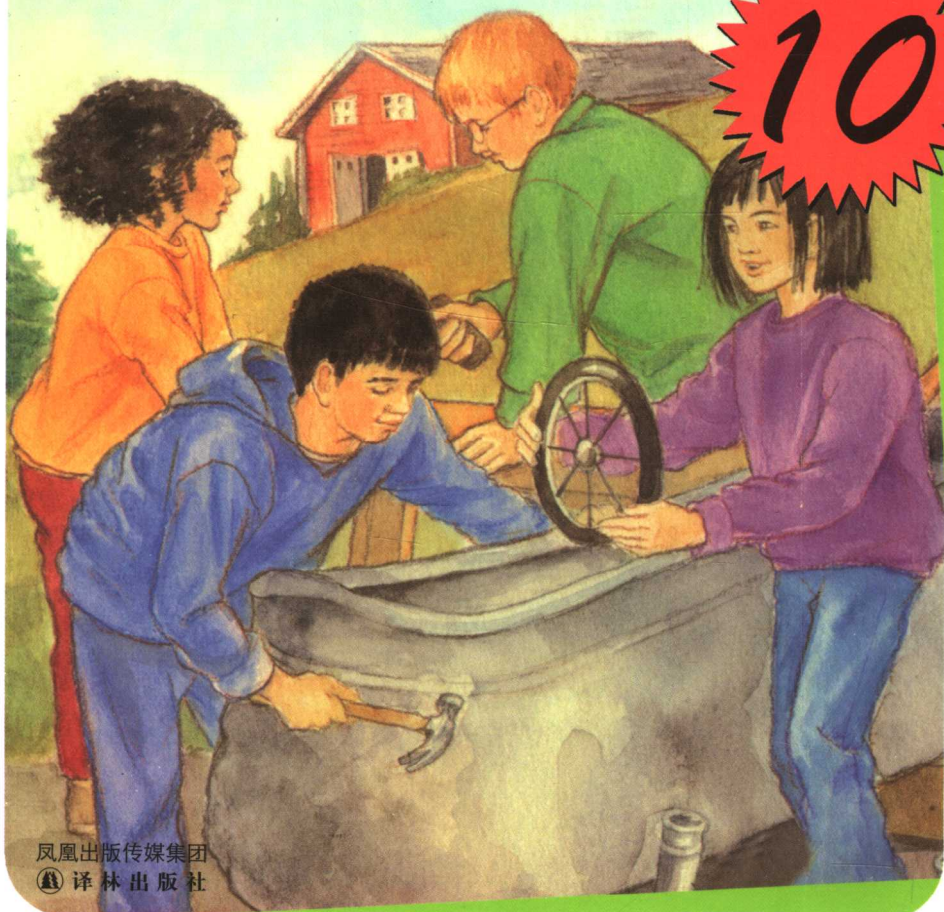
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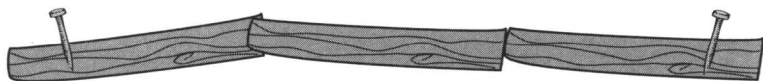
# 卡丁车

*The Go-Boat*

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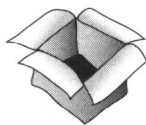


# On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!

Make a road for your own go-car race. Then make a little go-car and race your friends.

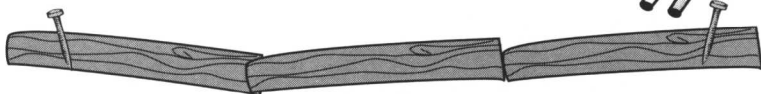
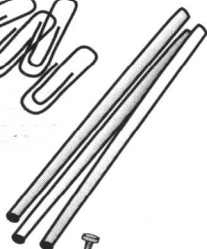
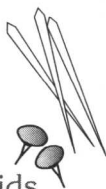
For the road you will need:

- poster board
- tape
- crayon or marker
- books or boxes
- scissors



1. Cut poster board in half lengthwise. Ask a grownup to help you. Tape the lengths end to end to make a road.
2. Draw a finish line across the end of the road and write "finish." Write "start" at the other end of the road.
3. Tape the start end to a chair or bookshelf that is one to two feet high. Make hills with books or boxes under the road.
4. Use a toy car for your go-car. You can also make a little go-car. Here is a list of possible materials.

- cardboard
- thumbtacks
- toothpicks
- plastic lids
- spools
- film canister lids
- straws
- paper clips
- pencils
- thread



# The GO-BOAT



By Jane Vecchio  
Illustrated by Thea Kliros

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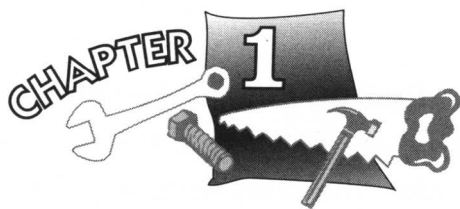
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**For my brother Tom,  
with hugs and kisses**

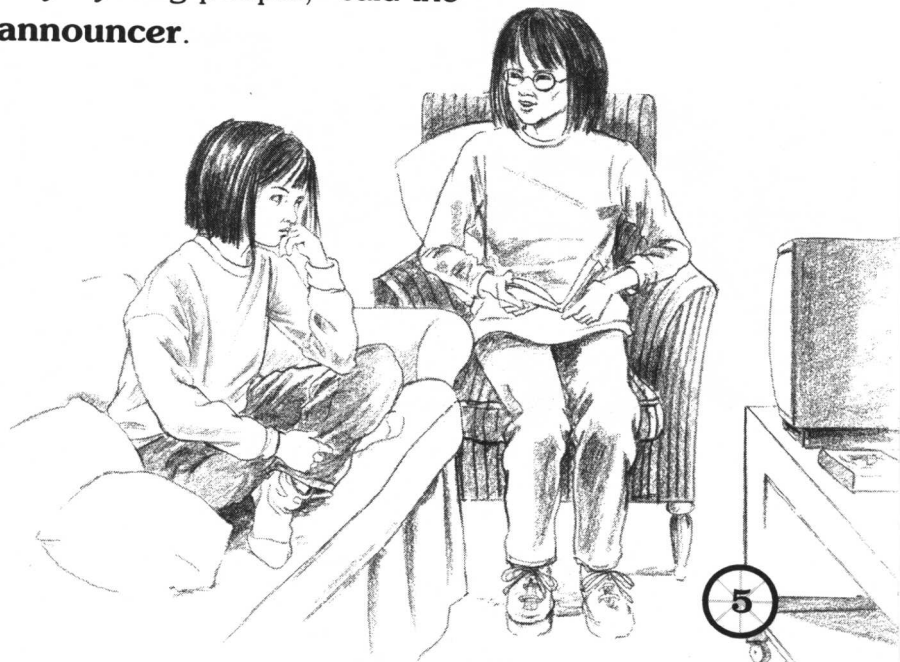


## The Contest

The **meteorologist** on television grinned and turned away from his weather map. "That's the weather for the next few days, sunny, but cold! Brrrrrr! Back to you, Bill!"

Wendy Asato sat on the couch and yawned. The TV news was so boring that she was ready to turn it off. Nothing very interesting seemed to be going on in her hometown of River City.

"Now a story about a special contest for River City's young people," said the **announcer**.

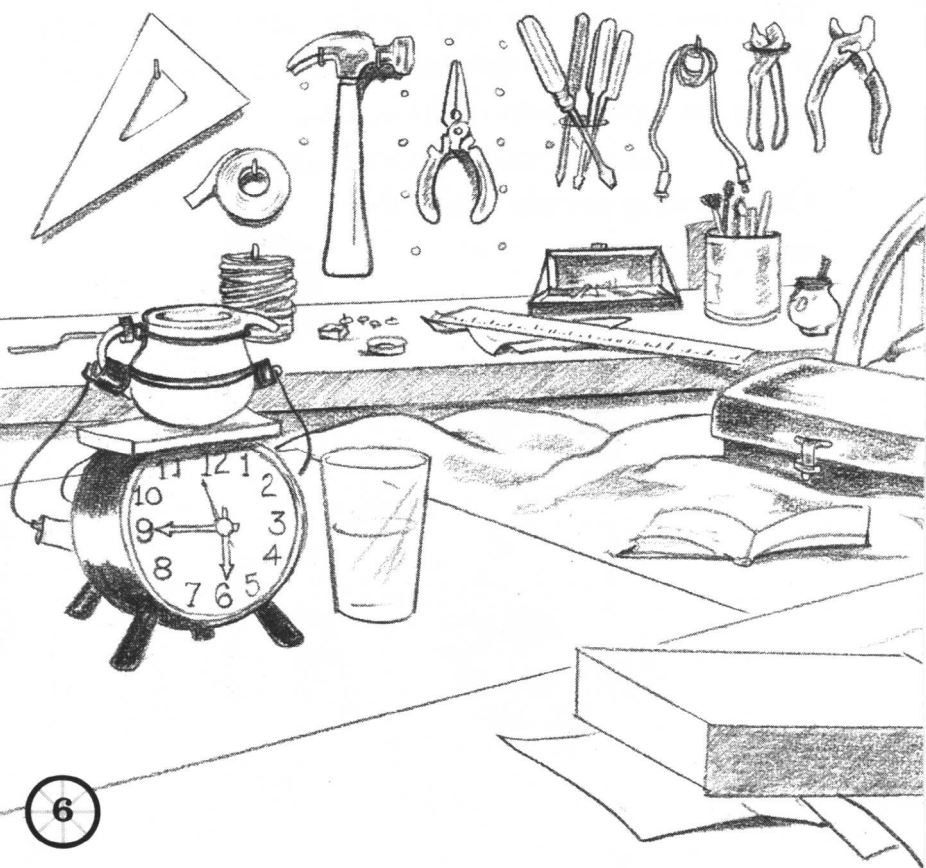




Wendy **perked up**. She was a young person who lived in River City. She also loved entering contests. Maybe this news story would be interesting.

“Calling all inventors,” the reporter said. “Calling all young inventors, that is.”

Wendy’s eyes sparkled. This was getting better and better. Everyone knew Wendy loved to invent things.





Wendy's room was full of great **gadgets** she'd made. She had the world's only alarm clock that also **poured** a glass of water. At least, it did as long as Wendy remembered to fill it.

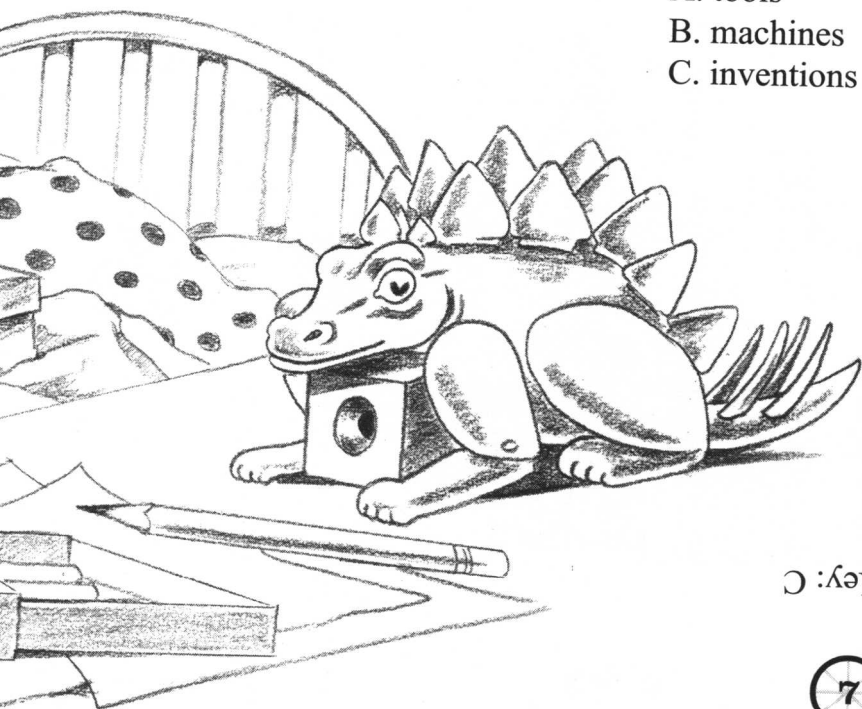
She also had a walking pencil sharpener made out of an old dinosaur toy. The rubber stegosaurus held a pencil sharpener. When Wendy clapped her hands, it walked from the corner of her desk and stopped under her desk lamp. Her favorite thing to do was build gadgets and make machines. Wendy **turned up** the volume and **stared at** the television screen.

gadgets

A. tools

B. machines

C. inventions



Key: C

On television a reporter stood in front of a strange old house. "Dr. Binsworth, our contest sponsor, would not appear on camera, but he did agree to let us set up our cameras here in front of his house," the reporter said. "The mysterious inventor has announced a very unusual contest. The contest is open to kids 13 and under.

**Contestants** must design and build a go-car, as Dr. Binsworth calls it. It's a car that runs downhill without an engine. Details and rules can be found in today's newspaper. So, kids, get those tools ready! This is Tanya Lopez reporting."

contestants

A. players

B. competitors

C. runners





Wendy jumped up and ran to the table in the kitchen, where her father was reading the newspaper. Wendy began jumping up and down in front of him. She waved her arms in the air and asked, “May I please read the newspaper?”

“Since when is the newspaper so important to you?” Mr. Asato said, laughing.

He handed Wendy the paper. She quickly began **flipping** the pages.

Then she found it. The headline read,  
“RECLUSIVE INVENTOR SPONSORS GO-CAR  
CONTEST.”

“What does the word *reclusive* mean?” Wendy asked.

Wendy’s mom had followed her into the kitchen. She answered, “It means very private, someone who stays to himself.”

Wendy’s dad read over her shoulder. “I know Bartleby Binsworth,” he said. “I’ve never actually seen him, but he often sends me lists of items he wants delivered to his house.” Wendy’s dad owned a hardware store in town.

“He does?” Wendy asked, surprised.

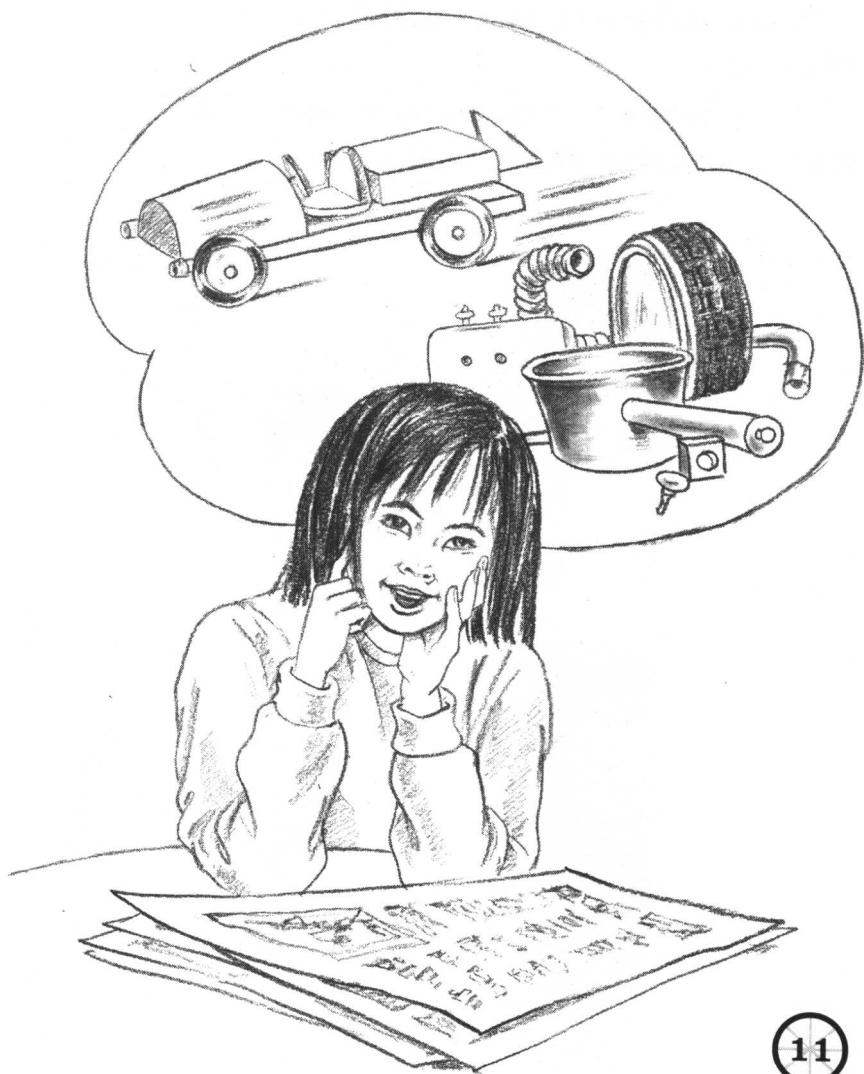
“I guess he uses them for his inventions. Last week he bought 400 rubber sink stoppers, a five-pound magnet, and a garden rake! I wonder what he made,” Mr. Asato said.

Wendy read the contest rules out loud.

“Contestants may work alone or with a group. You must be able to steer and brake the go-car for downhill racing, but it may NOT have a motor. In one month a race will take place to decide the winner. Most important, each go-car has to be made only from . . . JUNK.”

“Junk?” Wendy said. The news article went on to say that Dr. Binsworth believed the best inventions were made from surprising things. He was also a big believer in **recycling**.

Wendy put the paper down and smiled.

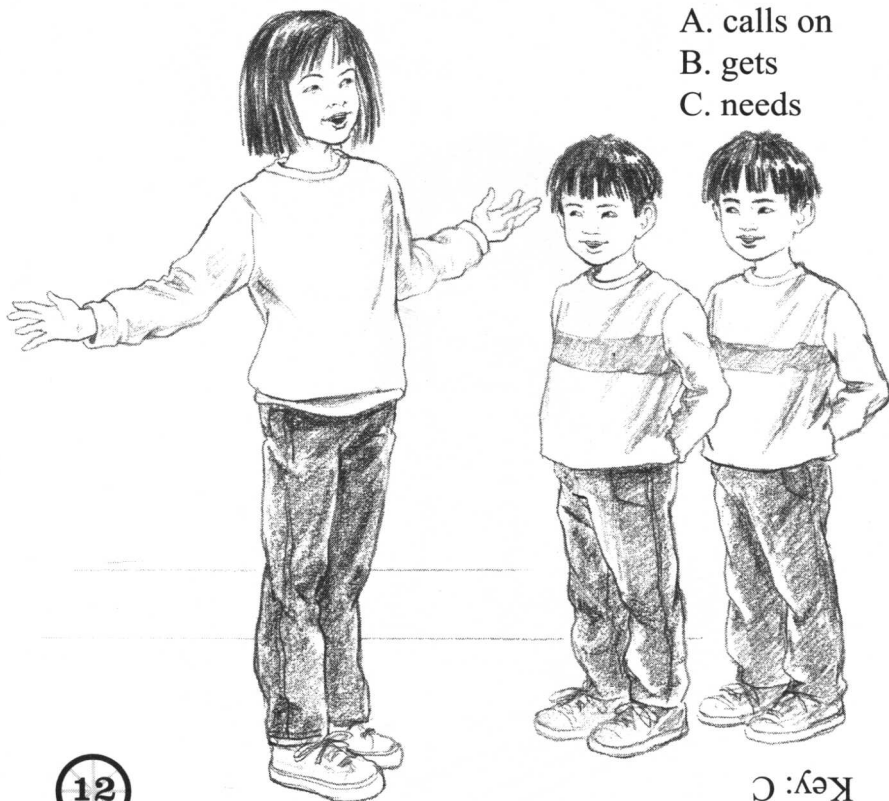


"I like this contest," she said. "I've heard about building go-cars out of kits that you buy, but this project **calls for** real IMAGINATION!"

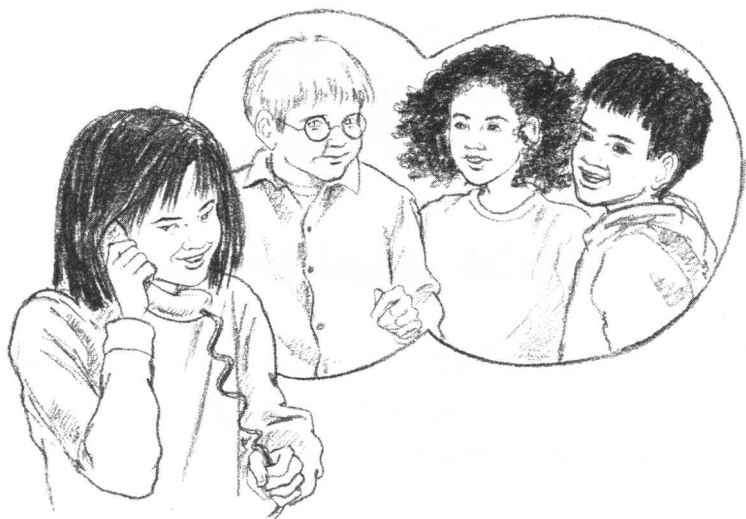
"Yeah, and lots of junk!" said Andrew. He was one of Wendy's twin brothers, who had just entered the room.

"Yeah, and lots of junk!" said David. He was the other twin.

Wendy laughed. "Do you guys have to say everything twice? Wait! Don't answer that!"



calls for  
A. calls on  
B. gets  
C. needs



Wendy ran to her room. She couldn't wait to start looking through her tools. She had so many that a whole corner of her room was filled with them, all **neatly** organized.

She knew she could design and build a go-car for the contest. There was just one thing. She didn't want to do it alone.

Wendy was not reclusive! She liked working with other people on a team. More people meant more energy, more good ideas, and more fun. So Wendy got on the phone and began calling her best friends, Luke Williams, Karen Harper, and Steve Alvarez.

Would Wendy's friends Luke, Karen and Steve join her in the contest?





## Nuts and Bolts

That weekend, Wendy and her friends had their first planning meeting. Karen brought her notebook to keep track of all the ideas that were discussed in the meeting. Karen enjoyed **research** and organization.

Luke brought his favorite books about outer space to give the team ideas for what a state of the art, space-age go-car should look like. Luke was a real **techie**, someone who was always interested in the latest technology.



Steve brought some cookies to help them keep up their strength. “Thinking is hard work,” he said. He also brought a book he had about an artist who used stuff he found in junkyards to make beautiful sculptures. “Found art is cool,” Steve said, “but it sure would be easier if we could just use a **kit**.”

“I don’t agree,” Wendy told him. “If we all use kits, all of the go-cars will look the same. This way we have a chance to invent our own go-car, one that’ll look the way *we* want it to.”

“We’ll need some good junk to make a go-car like this,” Luke said. He held up a picture of a shiny silver spaceship with big metal wings, flaps, and a rudder. They had all agreed to choose this as their basic design. It looked interesting, and they hoped the wings would help it move faster.

“So let’s go out and start looking for junk!” Steve cried.

The kids left Wendy’s house and began walking. They were looking for junk. The problem was, there wasn’t any junk to find. The city’s junk day had been a week ago. Everyone had **gotten rid of** the junk they didn’t want. The kids kept walking until they were near the main street where the stores were.