



“I wish it could be summer all year long,” cheered Kirsty Tate.

She straightened up from filling her wheelbarrow and smiled at her best friend, Rachel Walker. Rachel dropped a small shovel into her own wheelbarrow and smiled back at Kirsty.





“Me too,” she said, her cheeks pink from all her hard work. “And I wish we could help out at the nature reserve for longer, too. I love the animals so much!”

The girls were spending a week of their summer vacation helping at Wild Woods Nature Reserve as part of a team of junior rangers. Every day, they earned badges for their backpacks by doing special tasks. Becky, the head of the nature reserve, planned the tasks. That morning, she had thought of something especially fun for them to do together.

“I’d like you to plant shrubs along the bank of the stream,” she had said. “The shrubs will attract bees and butterflies to the nature reserve. We depend on them to help keep the plants alive.”

The girls had filled their wheelbarrows



with pots of flowering shrubs, spades, short shovels, forks, and watering cans.

“We’re ready, Becky!” called Kirsty.

“All right,” Becky replied with a grin. “Follow me!”

She led them through the woods, and the wheelbarrows bumped over the branches and pinecones on the ground.

