

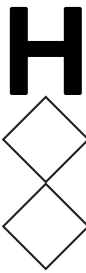
Welcome to Book Club!

You are now the proud new owner of a Montana ranch, and it's time to create a brand.

First, a little history about brands. The earliest records regarding livestock branding date back to the ancient Egyptians, but branding as we know it was brought to America by Spanish vaqueros in the early years of our nation. Brands are used to differentiate one ranch's herd from another.

Next, let's talk about how to read a brand. Brands are read from left to right, top to bottom, outside to inside, and can be made up of letters, numbers, and symbols. The orientation or form of the letter or number are part of its name. You'll find a handy chart about how to read orientation on a separate page. Some commonly used symbols are diamond, circle, bar, arrow, box, and cross, but there are many others as well. Brands can be simple or complex.

Let's look at some examples:



H Double Diamond



Reverse R Box B



Lazy Eight Bar Seven



Walking R Circle



T Arrow T



Crazy U Triple Cross

Now it's your turn! Design your own brand and draw it in on top of the ranch entrance sign on your coloring page. You can use the name of your brand as the name of your ranch (such as Rocking R Bar), or you can come up with a name separate from the brand (such as Heart of the Valley Ranch). If your name is separate, you can still incorporate the name into the brand, like this for Heart of the Valley:



For another example, in *When the Road Comes Around*, the ranch is called Come Around Ranch, and the brand looks like this:



Have fun, and be sure to show the other club members what you come up with!

Handy Dandy Orientation Chart

A backward character is called reversed	q
A leaning or tipping character is tumbling	p
An upside-down character is crazy	b
A character lying on its side is lazy	h
A curved character with rounded angles is running	v
A curvy dash on either side is flying	~A~
A bottom serif angled to the right is walking	H
A bottom serif angled to the left is dragged	H
A character set on top of a quarter circle is rocking	P
A character attached to a quarter circle at the top is hanging or swinging	A