

Bridge to Terabithia

Katherine Paterson

Novel Guide

Name: _____

Period: _____

****CHAPTER ONE- JESSE OLIVER AARONS, JR.***

Vocabulary:

overalls, double bed, worshiped, trot , scrap, soothingly, patch, droopy, grit, shebang, cuds, puny, whined, pricked, primly, deadweight, discarded

Comprehension Questions:

1. Write a brief biography on the author, [Katherine Paterson](#).
2. Why has he gotten up early every morning in the summer?
3. Why does Jess like May Belle?
4. Who is Miss Bessie?
5. Why would Jess prefer that May Belle tell their father about how well he runs?
6. What news does May Belle share with Jess in the bean patch?

Enrichment: *Design a title page for the book.*

****CHAPTER TWO--LESLIE BURKE***

Vocabulary:

scalding, nauseatingly, tremble, pudgy, shuddered, muddled, seep, genuine, hippie, endure, suburbs, pandemonium, allotted, snare, hypocritical, suede, proverbial, huffily

Comprehension Questions:

1. Why is the kitchen like a “hole”?
2. What does Jess keep under the mattress?
3. How do we know Jess loves to draw?
4. How did Jess' father react when his son told him that he wanted to be an artist?
5. Explain why Jess felt lonely in the house?
6. What was Jess' first reaction when he met Leslie Burke?

Enrichment: Draw a comic strip showing the conversation between Jess Aarons and Leslie Burke.

****CHAPTER THREE--THE FASTEST KID IN THE FIFTH GRADE***

Vocabulary: retreated, inheriting, roused, smirked, hoarsely, repulsive, quivered, drought, conspicuous, eliminations, sarcasm, deliberately, conceited, grudgingly

Comprehension Questions:

1. Who is Mr. Turner?
2. How is Leslie different from the other students?
3. Why is Mrs. Myers unhappy with her new class?
4. What did the boys organize outside once they were dismissed from lunch?
5. Why were the boys stunned at the results of Jess' heat?
6. Why is Gary Fulcher reluctant to let Leslie race in the finals?
7. Why does Jess sit beside May Bell on the bus?

Enrichment: Please list at least five similes that the author used in chapters 1

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****CHAPTER FOUR--RULERS OF TERABITHIA***

Vocabulary: heats, consolation, melodic, consolidated, rumpus, liable, faltered, contempt, ominously, scowl, dittoed, abruptly, intoxicated, enchanted, regally, siege, foes, principle, tyrant, dictator, extinct, shinnying, corset, punctured, strive, sacred

Comprehension Questions:

1. Why wasn't running fun anymore?
2. Find proof in the story that Jess really likes Miss Edmunds.
3. What did Leslie mean by the statement, "Money is not the problem"?
4. Why was Leslie unable to do the project on Jacques Cousteau?
5. According to Leslie, what was the only way that someone would be able to get to their magic country?
6. What did Leslie name their new secret land?
7. Why did Leslie and Jess avoid one another during school hours?
8. Have you ever had a secret place where you went with your friends? Describe it.

Enrichment: According to Leslie, her parents have moved to the area because they are "reassessing their value structure". What things in life do you value? Explain why some of your values may change as you get older. Can you think of any values you have now that may never change?

****CHAPTER FIVE--THE GIANT KILLERS***

Vocabulary: revenge, vigorously, regicide, pacing, parapets, cuss, plunged, crimson

Comprehension Questions:

1. Who was the "real" giant in their lives?
2. What did the council of war discuss at Terabithia that afternoon?
3. What plan of action to they decide on to pay back Janice Avery?
4. What was the hardest part of the plan to get Janice Avery?
5. How does Leslie prevent Mrs. Pierce from discovering Jess in the classroom?
6. Do you think Leslie and Jess were wise to reveal the truth to May Bell about who wrote the letter to Janice Avery?

Enrichment: List any examples of metaphors or onomatopoeias from chapters 1-5.

****CHAPTER SIX--THE COMING OF PRINCE TERRIEN***

Vocabulary: obsessed, surplus, foundling, grieve, scrawling, stronghold, prescribed, grove, squabbling, splurged, slithering, prancing

Comprehension Questions:

1. What were the girls obsessed with at Jess' house?
2. What did Jess plan to give Leslie for Christmas initially?
3. Why did Jess get off the bus before his normal stop?
4. Why do Jess and the puppy enter Terabithia by the prescribed entrance?
5. What does Leslie give Jess for Christmas?
6. Explain the sentence, "That night the glow of the afternoon stayed with him".
7. Compare Jess' house on Christmas Day to the "gift exchange" at Terabithia.

Enrichment: Please list any examples of personification used in chapters 1-6.

****CHAPTER SEVEN--THE GOLDEN ROOM***

Vocabulary: reluctant, exiled, dregs, canker, tolerated, mother lode, prospectors, garish, hostile, sire, realm, prey, predator, obliged, alcove, deserting, vile, betrayed,

Comprehension Check:

1. What happened when Jess tried to go to Terabithia alone?
2. Why had Mr. Burke exiled Prince Terrien to the porch?
3. Compare the relationship between Leslie and her father and Jess and his father.
4. Why did Jess feel differently when he was at Leslie's house?
5. Who does Leslie discover crying in the bathroom stall?
6. Why is she crying?

Enrichment: List any examples of hyperboles that the author used in chapters 1-7.

****CHAPTER EIGHT—EASTER***

Vocabulary: preacher, complacent, prissy, jumper, flounce, slunk, pew, unison, congregation, sanctuary, vile, sinners, raveled

Comprehension Questions:

1. What was unusual about the weather?
2. Why did the Aarons family only go to church at Easter?
3. Why would the girls not be wearing new clothes to church this Easter?
4. How did Jess' sisters react to the news about their father.
5. Why does Leslie say she would like to go to church with Jess' family?
6. According to Jess, what is one of the few books you can be sure to find around his house?

Enrichment: Write a poem about the story or one of the characters in the story. Read it to one of your classmates.

****CHAPTER NINE--THE EVIL SPELL***

Vocabulary: earnest, elements, conspiring, mournfully, confine, sodden, dignity, sporadically, vanquished, perceive, discern, plodding, gap

Comprehension Questions:

1. What does Judy mean when she tells Jess and Leslie that she is stuck?
2. What biblical scene was Jess reminded of when he first caught a glimpse of the flooded creek?
3. Explain why this chapter is called *The Evil Spell*.
4. What does Jess wake up to in the middle of the night?
5. What is the "flaw" that Jess recognizes in his own character and doesn't like.
6. According to Jess, what will Leslie still want to do despite the heavy rains?

Enrichment: Most people have experienced fear in their lives. Make a list of ten things that you are most afraid of. Discuss how fear can help you and hinder you.

****CHAPTER TEN--THE PERFECT DAY***

Vocabulary: scrawny, idly, udder, anxiety, flank, absorbed, vaulted, liberated, kinship

Comprehension Questions:

1. What does Jess want Leslie to teach him how to do in the summer?
2. Who telephoned Jess and what did the caller want?
3. Why did Jess not tell his mother where he was going?
4. What didn't occur to Jess until the car was past Millsburg.
5. When does Jess first realize that something is wrong?
6. Describe the scene in the kitchen upon Jess' return.

Enrichment: Jess had the opportunity to go on the “field trip of his dreams”. If you could go on the field trip of your dreams, where would you want to go? Why?

***CHAPTER ELEVEN--No!**

Vocabulary: relentlessly, dread, lopsided, hurtling, dredging, accusation, doused,

Comprehension Check:

1. How did Jess react when he was given the news?
2. Describe how Jess feels when he wakes up in the middle of the night.
3. Why does Brenda Aarons express surprise at her brother's behavior?
4. Why does Jess' father suggest that they should pay a visit to the neighbors?
5. Why did May Belle say that she wanted to visit the neighbors with them?

Enrichment: Pretend that you are going to interview one of the characters from your book. Make up a list of questions that you would like to ask them.

***CHAPTER TWELVE--STRANDED!**

Vocabulary: knocker, snicker, smothering, mushy, cremated, retrieved, bold

Comprehension Check:

1. Describe the scene in the Perkins place when the Aarons arrive.
2. Why does Jess think that Leslie has failed him?
3. What is the significance of the phrase, "*I am now the fastest runner in the fifth grade!*"?
4. What does Jess realize when Bill says they decided to have the body cremated?
5. What does Jess mean when he says that Leslie has left him stranded like an astronaut on the moon?
6. What question does Jess ask his father about hell?
7. Why did Bill give P.T. to Jess?

Enrichment:

- Please list any examples of foreshadowing that the author used in the story.
- Write down what you have learned from this story and share your ideas in a group.

***CHAPTER THIRTEEN--BUILDING THE BRIDGE**

Vocabulary: piteously, procession, chaos, obediently, paramedics, solemn, barked, allegiance, fragile, predators, crosspieces, emphasis, planks, gully

Comprehension Check:

1. Why is the glass of milk that Jess pours for himself warm?
2. Whose cry shatters the quietness of Jess' solemn procession?
3. Why did Mrs. Myers ask Jesse to step into the hall?
4. Jess remarks that Leslie took him from the cow pasture to Terabithia and turned him into a king. What does Jess mean by this statement? Explain in your own words.
5. At the end of the story we find that Jess is building a bridge to Terabithia. Why is this so important and what does it tell the reader about Jess?

Enrichment: There are thirteen chapters in this novel. Explain briefly the significance of each chapter title.

There are a number of steps involved when grieving a loved one. The first step is denial, the second is anger and the final step is acceptance allowing the individual to move on with their life yet feeling "richer" for having known that person. Identify when these steps occurred with Jess.