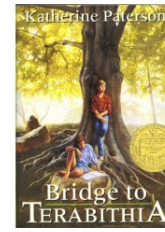


Lauren Bailey
Spring 2006

Tradebook



Title: *Bridge to Terabithia*

Author's name: Katherine Paterson

Publisher: Harper Collins

Copyright year: 1996

Reading level: Fifth Grade

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Synopsis of Story: The story starts out simply enough: Jess Aarons wants to be the fastest boy in the fifth grade--he wants it so bad he can taste it. He's been practicing all summer, running in the fields around his farmhouse until he collapses in a sweat. Then a tomboy named Leslie Burke moves into the farmhouse next door and changes his life forever. Not only does Leslie not look or act like any girls Jess knows, but she also turns out to be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. After getting over the shock and humiliation of being beaten by a girl, Jess begins to think Leslie might be okay. Despite their superficial differences, it's clear that Jess and Leslie are soul mates. The two create a secret kingdom in the woods named Terabithia, where the only way to get into the castle is by swinging out over a gully on an enchanted rope. Here they reign as king and queen, fighting off imaginary giants and the walking dead, sharing stories and dreams, and plotting against the schoolmates who tease them. Jess and Leslie find solace in the sanctuary of Terabithia until a tragedy strikes and the two are separated forever.

Theme: Friendship

Activity One: Social worker memo

Source: http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/pdf/bridge_to_tereibithia.pdf

Standard: English 5.2.1 – Use the features of informational texts, such as formats, graphics, diagrams, illustrations, charts, maps, and organization, to find information and support understanding.

English 5.2.3 – Recognize main ideas presented in texts, identifying and assessing evidence that supports those ideas.

English 5.2.4 – Draw inferences, conclusions, or generalizations about text and support them with textual evidence and prior knowledge.

English 5.5.2 – Write responses to literature.

Objective: After researching the topic, the students will write a memo suggesting how Jess's family can deal with his dad's job loss.

Description of activity: In chapter 8, Jess's dad is laid off from his job. As a result, the Aarons family is facing economic hardships. Imagine that you are a social worker employed by the county. Write a memo listing suggestions on how the family can deal with the financial difficulties resulting from the loss of the fa-

ther's job. Use information from the novel as well as your own experience and knowledge. Be sure to include suggestions on how to deal with the emotional and psychological problems as well as the financial ones.

Activity Two: Point of View

Source: http://www.glencoe.com/sec/literature/litlibrary/pdf/bridge_to_tereithia.pdf

Standard: English 5.2.3 – Recognize main ideas presented in texts, identifying and assessing evidence that supports those ideas.

English 5.2.4 – Draw inferences, conclusions, or generalizations about text and support them with textual evidence and prior knowledge.

English 5.5.2 – Write responses to literature.

Objective: The students will take a scene from the story and write it from another characters point of view.

Description of activity: The narrative point of view used in *Bridge to Terabithia* is called third-person limited. In this point of view, the narrator reveals the thoughts and feelings of only one character. Paterson chose to tell this story from Jess's point of view. Choose a different character, and create a dramatic monologue in which that character reveals his or her thoughts and feelings about a particular event in chapters 10–13. Examine the text for clues about what to include in your monologue. Present your monologue to the class.