

A Teaching Unit for Bridge to Terabithia

SAMPLE



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Sample Teaching Unit
for
Bridge to Terabithia
Katherine Paterson

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Bridge to Terabithia
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The highlighted chapters are yours free! Please print them for use in your classroom! ☺

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Bridge to Terabithia
Chapter Four

Name: _____ Date: _____

Word Choice

Author's choices of words work to enhance style, tone, or clarity in writing.

Katherine Paterson uses many strong verbs to paint a picture in the mind of the reader. Through the use of strong, vivid verbs, the reader is able to gain a better understanding of a character or a situation. Read the following sentences from chapter four and underline the strong verbs. Then on the line below the sentence, tell what the verb allows you to understand / see better.

1. Jess shoved his hair off his red forehead.

2. Now as he sat on the rug in the teachers' room the same warm feeling swept through him at the sound of her voice.

3. Even her ordinary speaking voice bubbled from inside her, rich and melodic.

4. She plunked herself down beside him on the bus and squeezed over closer to him to make room for May Belle on the same seat.

5. But she had wheeled around again, and was zooming down the hall.

6. Jess slunk out of the building.

Find another sentence containing a strong verb in this chapter. Page number: _____

Sentence: _____

How does this verb make the sentence more vivid?

Now, you try it. Rewrite the following sentence and choose a verb that adds more detail for the reader.

She went down the sidewalk.

Onomatopoeia

When an author uses words to imitate the sound they represent, this is onomatopoeia.

Read the following sentence. Circle the example of onomatopoeia.

They stood there, not moving, not wanting the swish of dry needles beneath their feet to break the spell.

Bridge to Terabithia
Chapter Seven

Name: _____ Date: _____

Conflict – a struggle or clash between opposing characters or forces (external conflict) or the character’s emotions (internal conflict)

Complete the following chart to analyze the conflicts that are present in chapter seven.

Passage from the book	Explanation of Conflict (Paraphrase the conflict)	Type of conflict (internal or external)
<p>Jess tried to go to Terabithia alone, but it was no good. It needed Leslie to make the magic. He was afraid he would destroy everything by trying to force the magic on his own, when it was plain that the magic was reluctant to come for him.</p>		
<p>...”Well, you’re the one who’s always telling me I gotta care,” he said. “But Janice Avery?” “If she is crying, there gotta be something really wrong.” “Well, what are you planning to do?” He flushed. “I can’t go into no girls’ room.” “Oh, I get it. You’re going to send me into the shark’s jaws. No, thank you, Mr. Aarons.”</p>		
<p>“Jess. I know where you and Leslie go to hide.”... “You ain’t supposed to follow me.”... “You listen here, May Belle Aarons,” he whispered fiercely. “I catch you following me again, your life ain’t worth nothing.”</p>		

Test – Chapters One – Seven

Name: _____ Date: _____

He didn't worry about a shirt because once he began running he would be as hot as popping grease even if the morning air was chill, or shoes because the bottoms of his feet were by now as tough as his worn-out sneakers.

1. What types of figurative language are used in this passage?
 - a. simile and metaphor
 - b. two similes
 - c. two metaphors
 - d. simile and personification
2. What does this passage reveal about Jess?
 - a. Jess is overly concerned with his appearance.
 - b. Jess is a very hot natured person who is always sweating.
 - c. Jess is a rugged person who is outside a lot and runs hard and fast.
 - d. Jess is a member of the track team and runs daily.
3. What is being compared in the figurative language in this passage?

Ellie's voice was sweeter than a melted Mars Bar. "Daddy said last week we girls were going to have to have something for school."

 - a. Ellie's voice to hot candy
 - b. Ellie's attitude to school
 - c. Ellie's voice to a Mars Bar
 - d. Ellie's desire to candy
4. Who is Joyce Ann?
 - a. Jess' teacher
 - b. Jess' mom
 - c. Jess' neighbor
 - d. Jess' baby sister
5. What is Jess' hobby?
 - a. building things
 - b. gardening
 - c. drawing
 - d. cooking
6. How does Jess' dad feel about his hobby?
 - a. He thinks it is a ridiculous waste of time.
 - b. He supports him.
 - c. He feels that it will one day turn into his job.
 - d. He wants Jess to teach his sisters about his hobby.
7. Who is the fastest kid in the fifth grade?
 - a. Jess
 - b. Leslie Burke
 - c. Bobby Greggs
 - d. Gary Fulcher
8. What point of view is used in this novel?
 - a. First person – Leslie's point of view
 - b. First person – Jess' point of view
 - c. Third person limited to Jess
 - d. Third person omniscient
9. Which of the following best describes Jess' relationship with Leslie at this point in the novel?
 - a. They get along well.
 - b. They fight all of the time.
 - c. Jess is jealous of the attention that Leslie gets.
 - d. They are always competing with one another.
10. Which of the following is part of the setting of this story?
 - a. a large city
 - b. a small town
 - c. a war torn village
 - d. a bus stop

Bridge to Terabithia
Chapter Nine

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tone is the writer's or speaker's attitude toward a subject, character, or audience conveyed through the choice of words and details.

Reread the events at the beginning of chapter nine (page 86 to the top of 87). The tone of this changes very quickly. Which of the following best describes the tone the author uses?

- a. hopeful at first then turning angry
- b. heartfelt in the beginning and then shifting to depressed
- c. melancholy and mournful at first and then changing to outraged and jealous
- d. agitated and bored with a shift towards happiness and relief

When Jess and Leslie are in Terabithia, the tone they use to speak to each changes as well. While there, they are no longer informal and jocular. They become serious and use a formal tone. Underline the words in the sentences below that make the tone formal.

"Dost know what is in my mind, O King?"

"Let us go even up into the sacred grove and inquire of the Spirits what this evil might be and how we must combat it."

Look through this chapter and fill in the box with words Jess and Leslie use to achieve this formal tone. The box has been started for you.

**Since many of these words are not common to our everyday language, you may need to use a dictionary to clarify meanings.

Words Used With a Formal Tone

arise
proceed
thou
removes

Now you try it!

On a separate sheet of paper, you will write a dialogue between you and a friend who are visiting Terabithia. You need to make sure that you have at least ten lines of dialogue. Your dialogue must be punctuated correctly. Be sure to use the rules for writing on the dialogue sheet provided by your teacher. Refer to the chart above to help you use a formal tone.

Bridge to Terabithia
Rules for Writing Dialogue

As you write a dialogue, refer to these rules.

- **Use quotation marks before and after a character's exact words.**
- **Placing speaker tags, such as "she said" or "Joe replied," identifies the speaker.**

"Daddy!" May Belle screamed with delight and started running for the road.

- **Begin a direct quotation with a capital letter.**

But before he had time to figure anything out, she said, "Now I'm not going to have any argument about who's paying..."

- **Set off a direct quotation from the rest of the sentence by a comma, a question mark, a colon, or an exclamation point inside the quotation marks.**

"Is it male or female?"

"To the grove of pines," she answered.

"Jess-see!"

- **When a speaker tag provides a direct quotation into two parts, the second part begins with a lowercase letter unless it also begins a new sentence.**

"How about," Jess began, "you coming down and taking a look at 'um, and if they suit you, you could take 'um along home when you go tell Momma where I am?"

- **Begin a new paragraph each time the speaker changes.**

"No rugs," Bill said.

"No," agreed Judy. "It would be like putting a veil on the Mona Lisa."

Bridge to Terabithia
Chapter Thirteen

Name: _____ Date: _____

Symbolism

A symbol is something that stands for something else, like the American flag stands for freedom, and a dove represents peace. It is any object, person, place, or experience that means more than what it is. For example, the eagle (a bird) is a symbol of freedom.

A literary symbol has literal meaning in a story but stands for something else.

For example, in literature the color white is often symbolic of goodness and purity.

If something is symbolic, it will most likely

- *be repeated in the book*
- *be written in a memorable or vivid way*
- *be emphasized with imagery*
- *mean something else than what it is*

How is the bridge that Jess and Leslie cross emotionally symbolic?

What is the bridge's symbolism effect on the work as a whole?

What is the the author's purpose in using this symbol?

Do you think that the water in the novel is symbolic of anything? _____ If yes, explain.

Thank you for previewing our unit. Download the entire teaching unit for *Bridge to Terabithia* now and you will have everything listed in the table of contents. Use it immediately and for years to come!