



## *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson

### Discussion Questions

1. How is drawing an escape for Jess? Why does he continue doing it despite the negative response from his father?
2. Why do you think Jess has trouble “seeing” the imaginary creatures and surroundings of Terabithia at first? Why does the ability to imagine come so naturally to Leslie?
3. Which do you prefer - visualizing the land of Terabithia for yourself while reading the book, or seeing the images on the movie screen? Why?
4. Is it right for Jess & Leslie to write a fake letter to Janice as a way to get back at her? Why or Why not? What would you do in their situation? What are some alternatives to seeking revenge?
5. After all the pain that Janice has caused for Jess & Leslie, why do they decide to reach out to her when she is upset? Would you have been compassionate to her?
6. How does learning of Janice’s situation with her father change how Leslie & Jess perceive Janice and her behaviors?

7. Why is Mr. Aarons not supportive of Jess's imagination and creativity?  
Why does he tell him it's not going to get him anywhere?
8. A passage from the book reads, "It was up to him to pay back to the world in beauty & caring what Leslie had loaned him in vision & strength." Explain how Leslie has given Jess vision and strength. How does Jess demonstrate acts of kindness towards the end of the story?
9. Describe the various emotions that Jess experiences after learning of Leslie's death.
10. In the story, Jess is filled with guilt for Leslie's death. He purposely does not invite her to the museum with Ms. Edmunds. Leslie ends up dying that morning on her way to Terabithia. Do you think Jess should feel guilty? Why or why not? ([www.disney.com/terabithia](http://www.disney.com/terabithia))

Find additional copies of printable discussion questions here:

[www.sussexlibraries.org/bridge-terabithia](http://www.sussexlibraries.org/bridge-terabithia)