

Tuck Everlasting

Chapter Discussion Questions

Chapter 1:

- What does it mean to have a house with a touch-me-not appearance?
- Why does the author state that only the first house, the road, and the wood were important?
- Does a person own property all of the way down to the center of the earth? Why or why not?
- Why would the discovery of the spring in the middle of the woods be an immense disaster?

Chapter 2:

- Why do you think that Tuck only smiled when he was asleep?
- Why does Mae only see her boys every ten years?
- What item does Mae never go anywhere without?
- How would you feel if you had looked the exact same for 87 years?

Chapter 3:

- Why does Winnie wish that she had a brother or sister?
- How would you feel if you were put in Winnie's situation?
- Why does Winnie feel as though she is cooped up in a cage?

Chapter 4:

- Why do you think Winnie is reminded of her grandfather's funeral when she is talking to the stranger?
- Why does the word "Forever" seem to strike the stranger as interesting?
- Why does the stranger seem to know the same melody coming from the woods?
- How do the three events seem to be connecting at the hub of the wheel?

Chapter 5:

- Why does Winnie change her mind about running away? What does this tell you about her character?
- What does Winnie mean when she says, "Of course, while I'm in the wood if I decided never to come back, well then, that will be that?"
- Why is Winnie so surprised at the appearance of the wood?

- What does Jesse mean when he says that he is 104 years old, but then says that he is 17?
- What does Jesse mean when he says, "I knew this would happen sooner or later. Now what am I going to do?"

Chapter 6:

- How is Winnie's kidnapping different than how she had imagined it to happen?
- Why do you think Winnie didn't scream out for help when she saw the man in the yellow suit?
- How would you feel if you were put in Winnie's situation?
- What does Mae do to calm Winnie's fears? How does this relate to what Winnie experienced the evening before?

Chapter 7:

- Why is it important to remember that the cat didn't drink from the spring?
- What other events led to the Tucks being suspicious about what was happening to them?
- How would you feel if you had to leave your home and lose your friends and family?
- How do you think Miles, Jesse, and Mae feel about the spring water now, 87 years later? What evidence allows you to draw the conclusion?

Chapter 8:

- Why does Winnie not feel 100% sure that it is a true story?
- Why do you think Jesse looks at the spring water as good, whereas Miles doesn't seem so optimistic?
- What causes Winnie to feel such a comfort with the Tucks, as though they are her friends?
- What do you think the man in the yellow suit will do with the Tucks secret?

Tuck Everlasting Chapter Discussion Questions Chapter 9-17

Chapter 9:

- How do you think Tuck was originally feeling when Miles and Jesse told him there was a real honest to goodness child with them?

- Why was Tuck so hesitant to say that it was the best thing that had happened to their family in...and he didn't mention the years?
- How do you think the Tuck family will change now that Winnie is around?
- How has Tuck already changed from his melancholy creases on his face to exclaiming that Winnie was the best thing that had happened to his family in at least 80 years?

Chapter 10:

- What does the author mean when she stated that Winnie was in training to be like her mother and grandmother? Has your family trained you to be similar to their own ways? Explain.
- Why do you think the Tucks can't keep a job, rather they need to make things to sell from town to town? Put yourself in their shoes, how would you feel?
- How do you think Mae felt when Winnie mentioned how sad and lonely it must be to move around all of the time and have no friends?
- Do you think living forever is a blessing or not? Why?

Chapter 11:

- What made Winnie begin to think the Tucks were crazy? How do you feel about them?
- Why are all the men of the Tuck family insisting on taking Winnie out for a row on the pond? What do you think they want to discuss with her?
- What does Tuck mean when he says, " We got to get you home just as fast as we can. I got a feeling this whole thing is going to come apart like wet bread?"
- What are your predictions about the future for Winnie and the Tucks?

Chapter 12:

- Why do you think the author goes into such detail about the images surrounding the characters?
- How does Tuck compare his life to that of the life in the pond? Why do you think he did this for Winnie?
- How is Tuck able to help Winnie to make sense of why it is important that no one knows their secret?
- What are some reasons Tuck gives to let Winnie know that the spring water is not good for people to discover?

Chapter 13:

- What motivation does the man in the yellow suit have for telling the Foster's that he knows where Winnie is?
- How do you think the Foster's will react to the man in the yellow suit?

Chapter 14:

- Is Winnie right in being hopeful that her dad will come and find her and he is probably out searching for her that very minute? Why?
- Why does Mae feel so remorseful about what has happened with Winnie? Do you think this comforts Winnie to know? Why or why not?
- Are the Tucks' criminals in your mind? Why or why not?
- Why do you think Jesse wants to marry Winnie? How will it be beneficial to him? Will it be as beneficial to her?

Chapter 15:

- Why is the wood a prize for the man in the yellow suit to win?
- Is a life more valuable than property? Why do you feel this way?
- Why does the man in the yellow suit insist that Mr. Foster stays at home and he handles the business himself with the constable?

Chapter 16:

- Describe the constable's personality? Is he the type of sheriff you would like helping you to rescue a kidnapped individual?
- What does the constable mean when he says, "How come you're so deep in it?" Do you think he has a reason to be suspicious of the man in the yellow suit? Why?
- How do you think the Constable would have reacted if he had known that the man in the yellow suit had committed a crime himself by stealing the Tucks' horse?
- What will happen when the man in the yellow suit arrives at the Tucks ahead of the constable?

Chapter 17:

- Why is it important for Winnie to consider the Tucks her friends, hers alone?
- How do you feel about nothing ever having to die? Would it be beneficial to live that way? Why or why not?
- What finally convinces Winnie to keep the secret of the spring?

Tuck Everlasting Chapter Discussion Questions

Chapter 18-Epilogue

Chapter 18:

- Why was Winnie's stomach fluttering so much when she saw Jessie? Do you think she will actually consider taking his proposition of drinking the spring water?
- How has Winnie's presence in the Tuck home changed both Winnie and the Tucks?
- The man in the yellow suit's voice is described as being pleasant, do you think he is a pleasant individual? Why or why not?
- How does the man in the yellow suit know that Mae's name is Mrs. Tuck?
- What do you think the man in the yellow suit will want to discuss with the Tucks?

Chapter 19:

- How did the man in the yellow suit know about the spring water and about living forever?
- Why do you think the man in the yellow suit devoted his life to finding out about the family that never aged?
- Does the spring actually belong to the man in the yellow suit? What makes you believe this?
- Do you think one individual has the right to decide what people deserve to live forever?
- Are the Tucks really being selfish by keeping the spring water a secret? Why or why not?

Chapter 20:

- Why do you think Mae was upset with the man in the yellow suit for taking Winnie against her will, even though she had done the same thing just a day ago? Who are the two situations similar and different?
- Is Winnie telling the constable the truth when she says at the Tucks did not kidnap her?
- Do you think Mae is so dangerous that she deserves to be locked up in jail? Why or why not?
- Why did the word gallows scare the Tucks so much? What would people discover if Mae was sent to the gallows?

Chapter 21:

- Why do you think there was a painful pause when Winnie's family realized she had actually gone with the Tucks on her own free will?
- What feelings do you think are going through the Fosters when they hear that the man in the yellow suit is sick and could potentially die?

- Why did Winnie's family sense she was different now from what she had been before she ran off into the woods?

Chapter 22:

- What is Miles's plan for getting Mae out of jail? Do you think it will work? Why or why not?
- What does Winnie offer to do to help Mae get out of jail? How will her idea allow the Tucks to get away?
- Why does Winnie insist that she has to help the Tucks?

Chapter 23:

- What did Winnie do with the bottle Jesse brought her?
- What does the author mean when she says, "Winnie had her own strong sense of rightness,"? Why is it important to know what is right and wrong?
- Why is it so important for Winnie to change places with Mae even though she knows that there could be consequences?
- Do you think Winnie will drink from the spring water at 17 and go marry Jesse? Why or why not?

Chapter 24:

- Is Winnie taking advantage of her family's trust by sneaking out again? Why do you feel this way?
- How did Miles remove the bars from the jail window?
- What did Jesse mean when he said, "Remember,"?
- How do you think Winnie feels when she looks out the window and discovers that no one is there?

Chapter 25:

- Why do you think it was such a trying two weeks for Winnie after Mae's escape from jail?
- What do you think would have happened if the constable would have discovered Winnie when he came to put a shutter over the window?
- Why do you think Winnie decided to pour the spring water over the toad?
- How will Winnie get the spring water if she decides to drink it at the age of seventeen?
- What does Winnie mean when she tells the frog that he is safe forever?
- Do you really believe in the story of the spring water? Why or why not?

Epilogue:

- How do you think Mae and Angus feel when they see the wood is gone and so is Winnie's cottage?
- Why were Mae and Angus anxious about the cemetery and didn't want to talk about it?
- Why was Tuck overcome with sadness when he saw Winnie's tombstone even though he had desperately wanted it there?
- What information did you learn about Winnie's life after reading the inscription on her tombstone?
- Do you think Winnie made the right decision by not drinking from the spring?
- Would you have changed the ending of the book if you had to write it over? What would you do differently? Why?