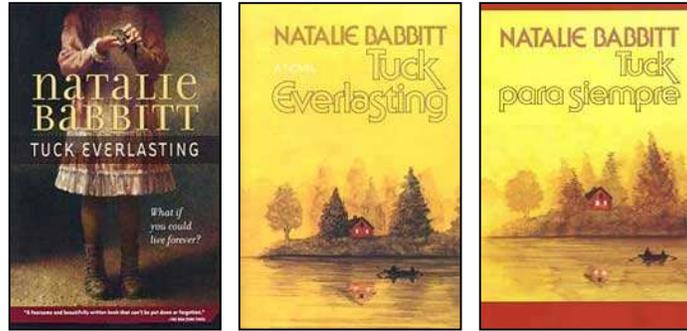


Discussion Guide - Tuck Everlasting



Tuck Everlasting

By Natalie Babbitt

ISBN: 978-0-312-36981-1 (Trade Paperback)

ISBN: 978-0-374-37848-6 (Hardcover)

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Grade Range: 5 and up

Age Range: 10 and up

Discussion Questions

Note: Page numbers listed below refer to the trade paperback edition.

1. On page 39, Miles describes losing his family as they aged and he didn't. Think about spending the rest of eternity at your current age. Who would you lose? What would you gain? Would it be worth it?
2. On page 64, Tuck tells Winnie, "You can't have living without dying. So you can't call it living, what we got. We just *are*, we just *be*, like rocks beside the road." What do you think he means by this?
3. On pages 99–100, the man in the yellow suit tells the Tucks, "Did you really believe you could keep that water for yourselves? Your selfishness is really quite extraordinary, and worse than that, you're stupid." Who is really selfish and unintelligent here, and why?
4. On page 119, Winnie thinks of the Tucks, "They were helpless. Or too trusting. Well, *something* like that." What do you think they are? If you knew you were going to live forever, how would that change what you worried about and how you interacted with other people?
5. On page 126, a huge thunderstorm hits Treegap. Why do you think the author chose to have the storm here? How is the weather related to the plot of the story?
6. Jesse and Miles feel quite differently about their immortality. How does each feel about it? Who do you identify with more?
7. People sometimes think immortality is desirable. What are some reasons the Tucks would give to argue against that?
8. It's wrong to commit murder, but was Mae Tuck wrong to kill the man in the yellow suit? Why or why not?



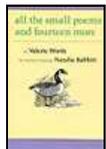
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9. Winnie broke the law when she hid in in Mae's cell to let her escape. Imagine you are Winnie's lawyer. What would you say to the court in her defense?
10. Compare the beginning and end of *Tuck Everlasting*, and discuss how Winnie's character changed.
11. Sometimes, people can be afraid of dying. After reading *Tuck Everlasting*, how have your thoughts on death changed (if at all)?
12. Think about the title of this book. What does *Tuck Everlasting* mean to you? What might it mean to Winnie?
13. Does this novel have a happy or sad ending? Why? If you could rewrite the final chapter, how would the ending change?

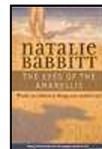
About the Author: Natalie Babbitt

A gifted artist and writer, Natalie Babbitt exhibits completely original brilliance and imagination in her novels. She began her career in 1966 with the publication of the picture book *The Forty-Ninth Magician*, a collaboration with her husband, Samuel F. Babbitt. Her first novel, *The Search for Delicious*, established her gift for writing magical tales with a more profound meaning embedded within them. *Kneeknock Rise* earned her a Newbery Honor Medal, but it is *Tuck Everlasting* that has insured Babbitt's place in the history of children's literature. This modern classic asks an enduring and powerful question: If we could live forever, would we want to? Babbitt has written six more novels, including *The Eyes of the Amaryllis* and *Goody Hall*; each one presents her unique vision of an enchanted world. Natalie Babbitt lives in Providence, Rhode Island, and is a grandmother of three. When asked what she wants readers to remember about her books, she replied, "the questions without answers."

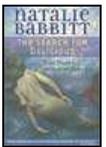
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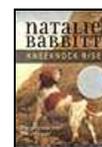
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