ELED 3113  
Fall 2018  
Hayley Nowlin

Tuck Everlasting

Author: Natalie Babbitt

Genre: Fantasy

Guided Reading Level: W

Awards: None

Multicultural: No

Protagonist: Winnie Foster- she’s a round and dynamic character. She overcomes internal struggles as well as external struggles throughout the text. She’s ten years old and is determined to do something great and meaningful with her life.

Antagonist: The man in the yellow suit-he’s a round and dynamic character because he appears to Winnie as a nice man, but when he confronts the Tuck family, he’s a manipulating evil man.

Setting: a village called Treegap in the 1800’s.

Themes: immortality, life and death, time, friendship

Point of view: 3rd person omniscient

Conflict: man vs. man (the man in the yellow suit vs. the Tuck family). Lots of internal conflicts on Winnie’s end.

All Elements of the Plot:

* Winnie, a young girl who always does what she’s told, is lonely and wants to run away.
* Winnie runs away to the wood beside her house. She runs into Jesse Tuck and his family ends up kidnapping her. They tell her their biggest secret: they’re immortal.
* The man in the yellow suit finds the Tuck’s hidden home and threatens to expose the family and extort the magical spring. Mae Tuck stands up for her family, and kills the man in the yellow suit. The constable comes to collect the Tuck family for kidnapping, but Winnie sticks up for them, too.
* Mae gets put in jail for killing the man in the yellow suit, but the Tuck’s and Winnie devise a plan to break her out. Jesse gives Winnie a bottle of the spring water, and tells her to drink it, and they’ll be back for her. We are left wondering what Winnie will do.
* The Tucks return to Treegap to find Winnie’s headstone. She lead a normal life and didn’t drink the spring water Jesse left her.

Personal Response:

This is one of my favorite stories I’ve ever read. I love all the characters in the book. Winnie: the headstrong dreamer, Jesse Tuck: wild child and the lover of life, Miles Tuck: the mature quiet older brother to Jesse. Mae Tuck: the protective caring mother, and Angus Tuck: the old and wise experienced father. The plot is one of a kind, and I haven’t read another book like it. *Tuck Everlasting* is one of the books that I contribute my love of reading to. It’s a heartstring pulling tale of adventure and friendship that never gets old, just like the Tuck’s.

Activity

The activity following the book *Tuck Everlasting* is unique to say the least. In the story, the matriarch of the Tuck family, Mae Tuck, is wanted for the murder of the man in the yellow suit. Back in the 1800’s when this story takes place, they didn’t have news channels or radios to report that the police were looking for criminals. All they had were “WANTED” posters that people would hang up on buildings in their own towns and in neighboring towns to spread the word. These posters would have a drawing of the criminal, a description of the criminal, and a reward if the criminal was found and turned in to the authorities. For this activity, I will have the students make “WANTED” posters for Mae Tuck, and we will hang them up around the school. This is a fun activity because the students get to showcase their creativity, instead of filling out a worksheet or making a chart.

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