Tuck Everlasting by Natalie Babbit

Prologue

1. Who sets out at dawn?
2. Who was Winnie Foster?
3. Who appeared at Foster's gate at sunset?
4. Explain in your own words what the author meant when she described the woods as the centre of the wheel--the hub?
5. List some synonyms and antonyms for the word *everlasting*.

**Vocabulary**: balmy, smeared, quivers, patience, undisturbed

**Enrichment:** What is a prologue and what purpose does it serve?  Why not simply begin the story with the first chapter?

Chapter One

1. What dichotomy does the author create through her comparison of cows to people?
2. What does the iron fence "say"?
3. Who owned the touch-me-not cottage?
4. According to the author, why had Winnie never been curious about exploring the woods?
5. What is located near the giant ash tree?
6. Although we are not told, suggest reasons why it may have been a disaster if the spring had been discovered by people.

**Vocabulary**: trod, tangent, ambled, fringes, meadow, blurred, tranquil, bovine, contemplation, infinite, veered,

**Enrichment:**   Create and illustrate a bookmark for *Tuck Everlasting* and use it.

Chapter Two

1. Why did Mae's husband resent being awakened by his wife?
2. Why did Mae want to go to the woods?
3. What did Mae place into her pocket?
4. What strange thing is revealed at the end of this chapter?

**Vocabulary**: melancholy, creases, tolerantly, petticoats, bosom, tarnished, rueful, brim

**Enrichment**: Design a poster promoting your novel and request permission to post it in the school library.

Chapter Three

1. Why would Winnie like to have a sibling?
2. What promise does Winnie make to the toad?

**Vocabulary**: bristly, stationary, hysterical, gnats, suspended, intrusions, grimace, plucking, heave, cooped, exasperated

**Enrichment**: Write an essay about over-protective parents and how children can handle it.  Create some actual scenarios and then act them out with some of your classmates.

Chapter Four

1. What is Winnie doing as the stranger approaches the Foster gate?
2. Why does Winnie's grandmother come down the path to the gate?
3. What suddenly distracts the older woman's attention as she talks to the stranger?
4. Winnie and her grandmother have different views about what is making the music.  Explain.
5. Why does the stranger wear an expression of satisfaction at the end of the chapter?

**Vocabulary**: strolling, intent, retorted, jaunty, self-deprecation, marionette, remnants, melody

Chapter Five

1. How was the real world different from stories according to Winnie?
2. What does Winnie hope to find in the woods?
3. Why is Winnie surprised when she finally enters the woods?
4. Describe the boy that Winnie sees sitting up against the back of the tree in the woods.
5. How old are Winnie and the *young* man?
6. What does the young boy tell Winnie when she asks if she can drink from the spring?

**Vocabulary**: galling, disheartened, venture, consolingly, timidly, interlacing, splotches, self-absorbed, pruned, self-assurance, arching, spurt, irrelevantly, primly, bleak

Chapter Six

1. Describe what is happening as the chapter begins.
2. Who did the group encounter during their flight into the woods?
3. What does Winnie plan to tell her grandmother when she returns home to her cottage?
4. What effect does the music box have on everyone?

**Vocabulary**: bridle, troupe, burly, moustaches, perversely, goggled, abruptly, comprehend, dismay, implored, distractedly, faltered

Chapter Seven

1. What convinces Winnie that she is probably the first person to hear the Tuck's story?
2. When did the Tuck family first suspect that something was terribly wrong?
3. Why did Miles' wife decide to leave him?
4. Why had their cat died?
5. How did Angus Tuck test his theory about the spring?

**Vocabulary**: populated, gypsies, clearing, source, tension

**Enrichment**: What is a fountain of youth?  Research the explorer Ponce de Leon and the fountain of youth.  If given the opportunity would you drink the water?  Explain your actions.

If you had to remain one age forever, what age would you choose?  Defend your choice.

What methods do most doctors suggest for slowing down the aging process?  Interview some elderly people to learn their secrets to longevity.

Chapter Eight

1. Why is Winnie reluctant initially to believe their story?
2. Why does the author have the Tuck family speaking with such a peculiar dialect?
3. Why is Winnie feeling so good about her decision to strike out on her own?
4. Who has overheard the entire story of the spring yet goes unnoticed in the forest?

**Vocabulary**: scornful, parson, shawl, elated, shimmered, receded

**Enrichment**: Pretend you are Winnie and write a letter to your parents describing your experience with the Tuck family.

Chapter Nine

1. What was the *oft-repeated* question?
2. What did the two boys do as soon as they arrived home?
3. What did Angus Tuck mean when he asked his wife, "Does she know?"

**Vocabulary**: vivid, vanity, brink, hoarding, reservoirs, revived, colander, displaced

**Enrichment**: Make some puppets and scenery and then portray a scene from the book.

Chapter Ten

1. What was the obvious difference that Winnie first noticed between her house and that of the Tuck's?
2. How does the author make the inanimate chairs appear almost human to us?
3. Why according to Mae, is it difficult for her and her sons to stay in one place too long?
4. Mae isn't certain whether or not the effects of the spring water on her family are a blessing or a curse.  What do you think?  Explain.

**Vocabulary**: pitiless, scoured, submission, fortress, indomitable, eddies, camphor, mirage, disarray, revolutionary, loft, cluttered, emerging

Chapter Eleven

1. What did Winnie find strange about the Tuck family's dining habits?
2. What did Mae want Winnie to promise before she took her home?
3. Why had Winnie begun to think of the man in the yellow suit as a savior.

**Vocabulary**: parlor, wobble, surge, supremely, savior, decisively

**Enrichment:** Write an imaginary letter to *Ms. Manners* expressing concerns about the Tuck's dining habits.  Have one of your classmates write a response to your questions and concerns.

Chapter Twelve

1. The author paints vivid descriptions of the sunset by comparing it to other things or objects.  Give a couple of examples.
2. Why is this a good time for fishing?
3. Explain how Tuck uses the stuck rowboat to explain his family's situation.
4. What does Angus Tuck claim he would do if he had the opportunity?
5. What concerns does Tuck express to Winnie at the end of his talk?
6. Why did Miles call for his father to come back?

**Vocabulary**: silty, dimpled, skittering, caroled, silhouettes, stern (boat), willy-nilly, blurted, rigid, anguish, hunched,lapped

Chapter Thirteen

1. What happened to Tuck's horse?
2. Why had the Foster family not gone to bed despite the late hour?
3. What does the man tell Winnie's grandmother?
4. Who might the man in the yellow suit be?

Chapter Fourteen

1. Why did Winnie experience difficulty sleeping?
2. Explain how Winnie could be exhausted by the conversation in the rowboat.
3. Why is Winnie having doubts as to whether or not the Tucks are actually criminals?
4. What does Jesse suggest that Winnie Foster do and how does she react?

**Vocabulary**: exhausted, flapjack, lingered, rumpled, adored, earnestly

**Enrichment**: Take a survey in your class to see how many students would want to drink from the spring.  Conduct a second survey to see at what age students would choose to drink from the spring.  Place your results on a graph and display on a bulletin board.

 Chapter Fifteen

1. Describe the opening scene in this chapter.
2. What does the stranger demand in return for providing the Fosters with the location of their missing daughter Winnie?
3. How do you think *you* would have reacted to the stranger's demands if you were the Fosters?

**Vocabulary**: barbarian, crinkling, illiterates, constable, ordeal

Chapter Sixteen

1. How does the stranger justify his delay in reporting the crime to the constable?
2. Why does the constable express surprise when he learns that the Fosters have agreed to sell their land to the stranger?
3. How did the man in the yellow suit respond when the constable asked him what he intended to do with his newly acquired piece of property?

**Vocabulary**: wheezed, roust, courteous, cahoots, foothills, slumped, gallows, cantering, flanks, gander

Chapter Seventeen

1. What does Miles invite Winnie to do?
2. Why was Winnie convinced that the Tucks would honor their promise to return her to her family?
3. Why didn't Miles take his own son and daughter to the spring to drink?
4. How does Miles respond to Winnie's reflection that it would be nice if nothing ever had to die.
5. What is the *clincher* that convinced Winnie that the Tucks were right about wanting to keep the spring a secret?

**Vocabulary**: grated, peril, teeming, searing, persisted, blotter, barbed

 Chapter Eighteen

1. Why is Tuck concerned about taking Winnie home?
2. What wish does Winnie make for the first time since her capture?
3. Who does Winnie think may be the nicest family member of all?
4. How does the knock on the door create suspense?

**Vocabulary**: fondly, strewn, surveyed, poised, fleeting, alien

Chapter Nineteen

1. Why was Winnie suspicious of the man in the yellow suit?
2. What connection is there between the Tuck family and the man in the yellow suit?
3. What tune did the man in the yellow suit hear near the Foster cottage that convinced him that he had finally stumbled onto the "family that didn't grow older"?
4. What caused Mae's face to drain of all color?
5. What did the man in the yellow suit claim he would do with the spring?
6. Describe the scene at the end of the chapter.

**Vocabulary**: tarnation, mantel, hearth, soothing, devote, metaphysics, tension, grimly, petulance, rave, ghastly, stock

**Enrichment**: Pretend you are selling the spring water from the Tuck woods.  What would you tell people about your product and how would you convince them of its authenticity?

Chapter Twenty

1. What reason did Mae give for hitting the man?
2. Why might Tuck be envious of the man lying on the ground?
3. What did the constable warn would happen if the man succumbed to his injuries?
4. What serious dilemma will occur if Mae Tuck is either placed in jail or hanged?

**Vocabulary**: sprawled, resentfully, unflinchingly, entranced, envious, rump, coarse

 Chapter Twenty-One

1. Why did Winnie like her rocking chair despite the fact she had outgrown it?
2. What defence did the Fosters offer for Winnie when they learn that she went to the Tuck house of her own volition?
3. What did the Fosters sense shortly after they had put Winnie to bed?
4. Despite their horror at recent events, what secret hope does Winnie's family foster?
5. Why does Winnie accept that the man in the yellow suit *must* die?

**Vocabulary**: babbling, murmurs, reliably, insistent, acrid

Chapter Twenty-Two

1. What affect did the warm metal bars of the fence have on Winnie's thoughts?
2. Who was Winnie surprised to see on the other side of the fence?
3. What does Jesse give to Winnie?

**Vocabulary**: exertion, perspiration, gingerly, parched, mingled, paled, anxious

 Chapter Twenty-Three

1. What does Winnie do with Jesse's present?
2. Why is Winnie so restless?
3. Why did Winnie jerk awake sometime later in the night?

**Vocabulary**: ponderous, remorseless, plaintive, lapse, gentility, prostrate, gratitude, poised, notch

Chapter Twenty-Four

1. What realization did Winnie come to as she left the house?
2. Who was waiting for her at the gate?
3. What object, shaped like an upside down [L](http://www.kshs.org/cool2/coolgall.htm), was located at the back of the jailhouse?

**Vocabulary**: accusations, detached, gloom, prying, ebbed, protruding, flailing, exultant

Chapter Twenty-Five

1. Explain what happened soon after Winnie made herself comfortable on the cot?
2. How did the constable react when he discovered what had happened?
3. Why did Winnie pour the bottle of water over the toad?

**Vocabulary**: arc, pod, host, departure, grateful, perversely, constricted, apprehension, comical, accomplice, custody, wistful, staunchly, prissy, gait, revulsion, loped

Epilogue

1. What evidence is there that a great deal of time has passed since the Tuck family made their last visit?
2. What happened to the Foster home?
3. How does Tuck react to the inscription on the tombstone?

**Vocabulary**: blacktopped, accustomed, lounged, proper, catholic, linoleum, wrought-iron, imposing

**Enrichment**: What is an epilogue?  What purpose does it serve?