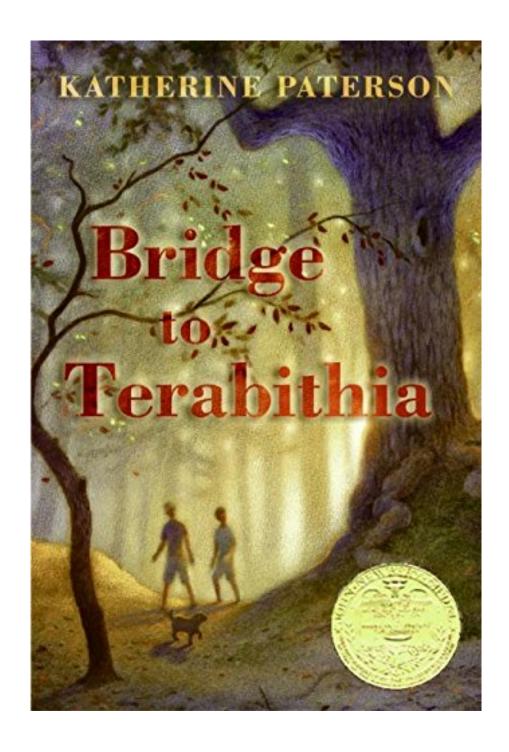


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Amazon.com Review

The story starts out simply enough: Jess Aarons wants to be the fastest boy in the fifth grade--he wants it so bad he can taste it. He's been practicing all summer, running in the fields around his farmhouse until he collapses in a sweat. Then a tomboy named Leslie Burke moves into the farmhouse next door and changes his life forever. Not only does Leslie not look or act like any girls Jess knows, but she also turns out to be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. After getting over the shock and humiliation of being beaten by a girl, Jess begins to think Leslie might be okay.

Despite their superficial differences, it's clear that Jess and Leslie are soul mates. The two create a secret kingdom in the woods named Terabithia, where the only way to get into the castle is by swinging out over a gully on an enchanted rope. Here they reign as king and queen, fighting off imaginary giants and the walking dead, sharing stories and dreams, and plotting against the schoolmates who tease them. Jess and Leslie find solace in the sanctuary of Terabithia until a tragedy strikes and the two are separated forever. In a style that is both plain and powerful, Katherine Paterson's characters will stir your heart and put a lump in your throat.

From Publishers Weekly

Paterson's Newbery-winning novel becomes an entertaining and dramatic audiobook via Leonard's accomplished reading. Jess Aarons is eager to start fifth grade. He's been practicing his sprints all summer, determined to become the fastest runner at school. All seems to be on track, until the new girl in class (who also happens to be Jess's new next-door neighbor), Leslie Burke, leaves all the boys in the dust, including Jess. After this rather frustrating introduction, Jess and Leslie soon become inseparable. Together, they create an imaginary, secret kingdom in the woods called Terabithia that can be reached only by swinging across a creek bed on a rope. But one morning a tragic accident befalls Leslie as she ventures alone to Terabithia, and Jess's life is changed forever. Leonard deftly interprets the strands of humor, realism and heart-wrenching emotion woven into Paterson's fine tale. His careful and authentic handling of Jess's anger and grief in the aftermath of the accident is sure to touch listeners. Contemporary instrumental interludes featuring guitar, piano and drums signal the beginning and end of each tape side. Ages 9-up.

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From School Library Journal

Jesse's colorless rural world expands when he becomes fast friends with Leslie, the new girl in school. But when Leslie drowns trying to reach their special hideaway, Terabithia, Jesse struggles to accept the loss of

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This Newbery Medal-winning novel by bestselling author Katherine Paterson is a modern classic of friendship and loss.

Jess Aarons has been practicing all summer so he can be the fastest runner in the fifth grade. And he almost is, until the new girl in school, Leslie Burke, outpaces him. The two become fast friends and spend most days in the woods behind Leslie's house, where they invent an enchanted land called Terabithia. One morning, Leslie goes to Terabithia without Jess and a tragedy occurs. It will take the love of his family and the strength that Leslie has given him for Jess to be able to deal with his grief.

In addition to being a Newbery Medal winner, Bridge to Terabithia was also named an ALA Notable Children's Book and has become a touchstone of children's literature, as have many of Katherine Paterson's other novels, including The Great Gilly Hopkins and Jacob Have I Loved.

Supports the Common Core State Standards

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• 144 pages

Features

· Great product!

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Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

Paterson shows how special people can make you become better. Many children (and adults) in today's society gravitate ...

By meister

Jess has spent all summer working to be "the very best" runner in the 5th grade, but when a mysterious girl named Leslie kills that dream, she opens up a whole new world for him (2). Leslie leads Jess into Terabithia, where they reign as king and queen and Leslie works to, "push back the walls of his mind" (160). Paterson is doing the same thing to her readers as Leslie does to Jess; she is expanding the walls of our minds. Leslie makes allusions to many literary works which in turn teaches new vocabulary. For instance, she uses the word "regicide" and then gives context by mentioning Hamlet (67). Not only does this section teach readers a new word, but it also introduces them to Shakespeare. The Newbery Medal is given based on the text of the book, and when reading The Bridge To Terabithia, one can see why it won the honor. The story not only teaches through literary allusions, but also uses colloquial speech to show the poverty stricken region that Jess lives in. While Jess' uses of "Lord" is controversial and one of the reasons the book is placed on banned lists, it gives the feel of life in the Appalachians. The book would not be as powerful if it were not true to life, and the language creates this truthfulness. Paterson is working to give her readers a larger world view (again, pushing back the walls of our minds). Through Jess teaching Leslie and Bill how to fix their house, they learn about rural living. Both children teach each other about their respective ways of life, and subsequently the reader learns as well. It shows how friendships between people from different backgrounds can push each other beyond themselves. Leslie taught Jess about the academic world, and Jess taught Leslie to be kind to others who don't deserve it (such is the case with Janice Avery). Paterson shows how special people can make you become better. Many children (and adults) in today's society gravitate towards those who are like themselves. The popular kids hang out with each other, the band nerds stick together, the honor

students spend time together, etc. Paterson is showing children how diversity can be a highly rewarding factor in a friendship. Controversies aside, this book is an excellent tool for teaching children an array of lessons and is a joy to read.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

OH MY GOD WHY DID I READ THIS AGAIN

By Dr Venture

This book was a punch in the gut as a fifth grader nearly thirty years ago. As an adult it's a beating with a padlock in a sock. Just non-stop blow after blow because now after college English classes you know about things like foreshadowing and symbolism and dramatic irony and YOU SEE IT COMING FROM MILES AWAY AND CAN DO NOTHING TO STOP IT.

I've read Martin. I'm used to not getting attached to vibrant, likable characters. But this still hits harder than the Red Wedding. Especially the aftermath. Because you're an adult now and your adult fears are different than your fears as a kid. This only heightens the contrast between Jesse's juvenile fear of falling into the creek and the reader's more mature fear of losing a loved one and makes the characters' pain stand out in that much more stark a contrast.

And that's not even getting into the theme of "If I had only..." that Jesse struggles with when he wakes in the night. If I had only asked her. If I had only thought of someone else. If I had only seen what was right in front of me instead of yearning for that which I cannot have. We've all had those moments, and we've all thought of what we could have done differently. The stakes are not always as high, but we are terrifyingly aware that we don't know when they might be.

The prose is exceedingly well-written. It's clear, almost matter-of-fact. Echoes of Narnia can be felt in Terebithia, especially in the Pine Grove. But the narrator never talks down to the reader. We see the world, and Leslie, through Jesse's eyes, but the story is far from childish. It doesn't pull its punches, but it takes care to show us beauty, too.

It should still come with a warning label and a box of kleenex, though. Not gonna lie; at almost 40 this one broke me, and I ain't even ashamed.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

5 Stars!

By Makayla McIntosh

A heartfelt story full of wonder, self-realization, and turns of adventure around every corner. A boy named Jesse Aarons is an outcast who soon befriends the new girl in town who turns out to be an outcast as well. Together, they build a magical kingdom they can escape to until tragedy in the real world strikes.

This book can be used in the classroom to analyze coming of age, wealth disparities, imagination of the mind, how to cope with bullying, and how to deal with emotions involving death as well. It can bring up these issues for good conversation among students. It has won a Newbery Award for these themes and issues as well, creating authentic reading for students and even adults. I believe this book has become so popular for its realistic meaning in the classroom. Students can read it and grasp some of these different themes and areas of issue, maybe even relating to them.

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