

# Tuck Everlasting

## Study Guide Notes for all chapters

### Prologue through Epilogue

#### Prologue

1. At what time of the year does the story begin?  
First week of August, like the highest point of summer
2. The mood at the beginning of the book is:  
A. somber B. dreamy C. peaceful D. expectant  
D.
3. What does the author compare to August?  
The highest seat of a Ferris Wheel
4. What were the three things that happened on that day in August?
  1. Mae rides to Treegap to meet her sons.
  2. Winnie Foster thinks about running away.
  3. A stranger appears at the Foster's gate.
5. What was at the center of the things that happened on the day in August?  
The wood is at the center
6. "but things can come together in strange ways. The wood was at the center, the hub of the wheel. Fixed points they are, and best left undisturbed, for without them, nothing holds together. But sometimes people find this out too late." The author uses the wheel as:  
A. personification B. irony C. symbolism D. characterization C

#### Chapter 1

1. Who made the road to Treegap?  
The cows trod the road to Treegap.
2. What are the three things that are important?  
The house, the road, and the wood.
3. What are the two reasons people didn't go through the woods?
  1. The road went around the wood.
  2. The Foster's owned the wood.

3. It was private property.
4. There's no road through the wood.
4. Who is Winnie Foster? What is her connection to the woods?  
The only child of the Fosters. The Foster's own the wood.
5. What disaster would have happened if people had gone to the woods?  
They would have found the giant ash tree with the spring at the root of it.
6. "The house is so proud of itself." This is what type of figurative language?  
A. simile B. metaphor C. hyperbole D. personification  
  
D.

## Chapter 2

1. What is Mae Tuck excited about?  
Seeing her sons, Miles and Jesse.
2. How long has it been since Mae went to Treegap?  
10 years.
3. What was the one pretty thing Mae owned?  
Music Box
4. Who is Tuck and what does he dream about?  
Mae Tuck's husband, and the Father of the Tuck family. About heaven and not ever hearing about Treegap.
5. What do we find out when Mae does not look in the mirror? How is this possible?  
Her appearance hasn't changed in 87 years.
6. "Mae sat there frowning, a great potato of a woman...." This is:  
A. simile B. metaphor C. personification D. foreshadowing B

## Chapter 3

1. Who does Winnie talk to at the beginning of the chapter? The toad.
2. Why does Winnie want a brother or sister?  
  
So her parents and grandmother wouldn't call her name so much.
3. "It was the only living thing in sight except for a stationary cloud of hysterical gnats suspended in the heat above the road." This is an example of what figurative language?  
A. metaphor B. simile C. personification D. idiom C

## Chapter 4

1. What does the stranger remind Winnie of?

the stiff black ribbons that hung on the door of the cottage for her grandfather's funeral,"

2. What does the man ask Winnie about? A family

3. What do Winnie, her grandmother, and the stranger hear?

A strange melody or music coming from the woods.

4. What does Granny think it is? What does Winnie think it is?

Elves.

A music box.

5. How does the stranger react to the music?

With intense satisfaction. He whistles the melody as he wanders down the road. He believes that he has found what he was looking for.

6. When Winnie is talking to the stranger and is reminded of "the stiff black ribbons that hung on the door of the cottage for her grandfather's funeral," you infer:

- A. Winnie is not really paying attention to the stranger.
- B. Winnie misses her grandfather.
- C. Winnie has a sense that the stranger is bad and is suspicious of him.
- D. Winnie doesn't like the stranger

C

7. The stranger seems to be quite happy when he hears the music. The reader can infer that he: B

- A. likes music.
- B. believes he found what he was looking for.
- C. knows the song he heard.
- D. enjoyed his conversation with Winnie.

## Chapter 5

1. What are the reasons that Winnie decides not to run away?

1. She would be all alone.

2. She doesn't know where to go.

3. She's afraid to go alone.

2. What is her impression of the Woods?  
"it's very nice."
3. Who does Winnie see in the woods? Describe him.  
Jesse Tuck. He is thin, sunburned, thick mop of curly brown hair, wearing battered trousers and loose, grubby shirt. A pair of green suspenders, and he is shoeless.
4. What is Jesse's effect on Winnie? What details prove this?  
She lost her heart immediately.
5. What are the two answers that Jesse gives to Winnie about his age? Why do you think he does this?  
104 & 17
6. What does Winnie want to do, but Jesse won't let her?  
Drink from the spring at the bottom of the ash tree.
7. What does Mae Tuck mean when she says, "The worst is happening at last"  
(last line of chapter 5) Someone found the spring and is trying

## Chapter 6

1. What do the Tucks do to Winnie? What is Winnie's reaction to this?  
They kidnapped her or they took her.  
  
When she ever thought about being kidnapped she always pictured a troop of burly men would tumble her into a blanket and bear her off like a sack of potatoes.
2. How do Winnie's kidnappers seem to feel about kidnapping her? How is this different from usual kidnappers?  
  
They are as alarmed as she is. Most kidnappers are not alarmed.
3. What effect does the music box have on Winnie?  
It calms her down or stopped her from crying.
4. "Winnie has often thought of what it would be like to be kidnapped..... bear her off like a sack of potatoes" This is an example of:  
  
A. Metaphor B. Personification C. Onomatopoeia D. Simile  
  
D
5. Why didn't Winnie call out to the man in the yellow suit for help?

Her mind went blank and then it was too late. She thought she may fall off the horse. She also may have had the feeling that he couldn't be trusted because she thought about the black ribbons from her grandfather's funeral. She was too far away.

## Chapter 7

1. Who drank from the spring? Who didn't drink from the spring and why is it important?  
Mae, Angus Tuck, Miles, Jesse, and the horse. The cat didn't drink and it eventually died.
2. What did pa do to the tree?  
Carved a "T" in it.
3. What things happened to make the Tucks realize something strange was happening to them?  
Jesse fell out of a tree and landed on his head. Pa got snake bit. Jesse ate the poison toadstools. Mae cut herself. The horse got shot.
4. What did Mile's wife do and why?  
His wife decided he had sold his soul to the devil and she took his two kids and left him.
5. Why did Tuck shoot himself?  
To prove that he couldn't die.

## Chapter 8

1. Does Winnie believe the Tuck's story? Why?  
At the beginning "no". Because she doesn't believe in fairy tales, but then she says "It couldn't be—not a bit of it—be true. And yet....."
2. How do the Tucks make Winnie feel?  
They made her feel old and special and important. It was a warm feeling.
3. Jesse and Miles seem to feel differently about the fact that they're never going to die. What's the difference?  
Jesse: "We might as well enjoy it, long as we can't change it." (Carefree)  
Miles: "I just think you ought to take it more serious" (Serious)
4. Which one feels more like the way you would feel?
5. Who was listening as the Tucks told their story?  
The man in the yellow suit or the Stranger.
6. Which of the passages is a simile? **A**
  - A. "for they gathered around her like children at their mother's knee..."
  - B. "In those days the wood was not a wood, it was a forest..."
  - C. "The horse was out grazing by some trees and they shot him."

7. "the graceful arms of the pines stretched out protectively in every direction." This is **B**

A. simile B. metaphor C. personification D. figurative language

## Chapter 9

- Describe the place where the Tucks live.  
**A plain, homely little house, barn red, below it a lake**
- When Angus Tuck says, "...well, then, seeing you know, I'll go on and say this is the finest thing that's happened in-oh-at least eighty years." He means:  
A. They haven't had a visitor in eighty years. **A**  
B. No one ever knew their secret until now.  
C. They hadn't ever spoken to a little girl
- What is the mood at the end of chapter 9 when the stranger over hears what was said? **A**  
A. ominous B. Antagonistic C. depressing
- How does Angus Tuck seem to feel about Winnie when he first meets her?  
**"It's the finest thing that's happened in at least eighty years."**

**He feels happy, glad, excited.**

## Chapter 10

- How is the Tucks' house different from Winnie's house?  
**Winnie's house is always neat and orderly.**  
**The Tuck's house is untidy and cluttered, in disarray.**
- What are Mae and Tuck's jobs?  
**Mae: sews quilts and braided rugs.**  
**Tuck: carves and makes dolls, wooden soldiers, wooden spoons and bowls, and forks.**  
**Or They make things to sell.**
- What do Miles and Jesse do for their jobs?  
**Miles: Carpentering and blacksmith**  
**Jesse: Whatever strikes him at the moment, working in the fields, saloons.**

What do you think Mae means when she says, "Life's got to be lived, no matter how long or short. You got to take what comes." (pag.54)

## Chapter 11

1. What are two unusual things about the way the Tuck's eat?  
They didn't eat around the table, no talking, no napkins.
2. What is Tuck worried about?  
"I got a feeling there ain't a whole lot of time."
3. "The pond's got answers" this is an example of \_\_\_\_ Personification \_\_\_\_?

## Chapter 12

1. How does Tuck describe life to Winnie? What does he compare it to?  
Life is like a wheel. Like the pond goes to the ocean and then back into  
  
The atmosphere and then down again with the rain. Life keeps moving.
2. What does Tuck mean when he says, "Everything's a wheel, turning and turning, never stopping?" (62)  
Life is always changing and always moving
3. Why does Tuck say that he and his family are "like rocks beside the road?"  
Because they're stuck. They're not on the wheel of life.
4. What does Tuck predict would happen if others knew about the spring?  
  
The people would be running like pigs to slops. They'd trample each other. Little ones would stay little and old ones would stay old.
5. "Across the pond a bullfrog spoke a deep note of warning." This is an example of  
A. Foreshadowing & personification B. Metaphor & personification  
  
A
6. What happens to the horse? Who do you think took the horse?  
The horse was stolen

## Chapter 13

1. Who took the Tuck's horse?  
The stranger in the yellow suit.

## Chapter 14

1. How does Winnie feel when she lays down to go to sleep? What details show this?  
*Painfully lonely for home. Her joy from the morning had completely disappeared.*
2. Who are Winnie's first two visitors in the night?  
*Mae and Tuck*
3. Why do they check on her?  
*Concern and worry*
4. What does this show about them?  
*They care about her.*
5. Who is Winnie's last visitor? What does he suggest?  
*Jesse. He wants Winnie to wait until she's 17 and drink from the spring so they can be together, possibly get married.*
6. Do you predict she'll follow this suggestion? Why?

## Chapter 15

1. What kind of deal does the stranger want to make? How does this show what kind of person he is?  
*He'll tell the Fosters where Winnie is if they give him the wood.*
2. "Dreadful thing, kidnapping. Isn't it fortunate that I was a witness? Why without me, you might never have heard a word." The tone of this passage is:  
A. Suspicious    B. Boastful    C. Indifferent    D. Peaceful  
*B*

## Chapter 16

1. How does the stranger justify his delay in reporting the crime to the constable?  
*Said he needed to see where they took her.*
2. Why does the constable express surprise when he learns that the Fosters have agreed to sell their land to the stranger?  
*Fosters are land-proud*
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?  
*He said "no" to an answer of building a home, but he said nothing about what he was going to do with the wood.*
4. How would you describe the constable?  
*Laid-back, suspicious of the stranger, slow, lazy, talkative*
5. Why does the stranger say he is going on ahead? Do you think that is the real reason? Why?



Says he's worried about the girl. No-he wanted to make sure they're still there, and talk to them in private.

## Chapter 17

1. What does Miles invite Winnie to do?  
Go fishing
2. Why was Winnie convinced that the Tucks would honor their promise to take her home?  
Because nothing bad has happened so far and she feels in love with them.
3. How old would Mile's children be? Why didn't he take them to the spring to drink from the water?  
Daughter Anna 80, Son 82. They were too old by the time they realized it was the spring water that changed them.
4. How does Miles respond to Winnie's reflection that it would be nice if nothing ever had to die?  
Said there would be too many people, overcrowded.
5. What is it that convinces Winnie that the Tucks are right about wanting to keep the spring a secret?  
The mosquitoes never die.
6. What does Miles plan to do with his life?  
To do something important

## Chapter 18

1. Why is Tuck concerned about taking Winnie home?  
They didn't have the horse.
2. What wish does Winnie make for the first time since her capture?  
That she could stay with the Tucks
3. Who does Winnie think is the dearest of them all? Why do you think she feels this way?  
Angus Tuck, because he was a father-like figure and he treated her like an adult.
4. Who interrupts the meal?  
The stranger in the yellow suit.
5. How does the knock on the door create suspense?  
They never have visitors and they have lived there for 20 years.

## Chapter 19

1. Why was Winnie suspicious of the man in the yellow suit?  
His lack of facial expressions.
2. How does the man in the yellow suit know about the Tucks?  
The stranger's grandmother had a friend and she was the wife of Miles, and the stranger's grandmother would tell him stories about the odd family.
3. What was the man's one clue to the Tucks?  
The tune from the music box.
4. What does the man plan to do now that he knows the secret?  
Sell the water to the highest bidder.
5. How do the Tucks feel about what he wants to do?  
They are extremely mad and angry.
6. How does the man want the Tucks to help?  
Find the spring and advertise and demonstrate how it works.
7. What does Mae do to the man? Who is there to see it?  
She hits the man in the head with the stock of the shotgun. The constable saw this.

## Chapter 20

1. What reason did Mae give for hitting the man?  
The stranger was taking Winnie against her will.
2. What did the constable warn would happen if the man died?  
Mae would be hanged.
3. What would be the problem if she were hanged?  
Mae wouldn't die and people would find out their secret.

## Chapter 21

1. What does Winnie tell her folks about the Tucks?  
They were good and gentle people **No Grade**
2. Do they believe her? Why?  
"They did not, would not believe it, and her grandmother said it was the elves." pg 106 **No Grade**
3. What will happen to the wood if the man dies?  
It would go back to the Fosters

4. What does the constable come to tell the Fosters?

The man in the yellow suit died

5. What defense did the Foster's offer when they find out that Winnie went with the Tucks on her own volition?

It must have been the elves that bewitched her

6. What did the Foster's sense shortly after putting Winnie to bed?

She was different, some part of her had slipped away.

**No Grade**

7. Why does Winnie accept the man in the yellow suit must die?

So that the secret would be safe

## Chapter 22

1. Who was Winnie surprised to see on the other side of the fence?

Jesse

2. What does Jesse give to Winnie? Why?

A bottle of the water from the spring. She can drink it when she turns 17 and then come find him.

3. What plan does Miles come up with?

To break Mae out of jail by taking out the bars from the window

4. How does Winnie think she can help with the plan?

Trade places with Mae so that the Constable does not realize Mae is gone.

## Chapter 23

1. What does Winnie do with Jesse's gift?

She puts it in her bureau drawer

2. How does Winnie feel about sneaking out of the house?

Guilty

3. Why does Winnie want to help the Tucks?

They need her to take care of them because they are helpless and too trusting

## Chapter 24

1. Why is the weather so important for the night?

To hide what's happening at the jail

2. What is the last thing Jesse says to Winnie? What is the significance?

"Remember" to drink the water when she's 17

3. What does Winnie hear as she looks out into the night?

The melody from the music box

4. Explain what is meant by "stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage".

You can feel trapped without being behind bars.

## Chapter 25

1. What happened in the jail right after the Tucks left?

The constable came and closed the curtain on the window

2. What was the crash that Winnie heard in the night?

The gallows had blown over in the wind

3. What is the constable's reaction when he finds Winnie?

Angry. He told her he would keep her in jail if she had been older

4. What reason did Winnie give her parents for her actions? Do you think these were good reasons?

In spite of everything, she loved them

5. Why does Winnie save the toad from the dog? What does she do to the toad? Why do you think she does that?

Because the dog wanted to hurt the toad. She pours the water that Jesse gave her from the spring onto the toad.

### Epilogue

1. What are the three ways that Treegap has changed?
  1. The road was blacktop with a white line down the middle
  2. The wood was gone
  3. A bigger jail stood
2. What do the Tucks find out happened two and three years ago? How do they feel about this?
  - 3- The wood burned down and bulldozed over.
  - 2- Winnie died. Tuck is glad that she stayed on the wheel of life. Mae feels bad for Jesse
3. Where do the Tucks go to find answers? What are they looking for?

The diner. They ask questions about the wood, the spring and Winnie Foster
4. Why do you think Tuck says, "Good girl" on page 138?

Because she didn't drink from the spring.
5. What do the Tucks see as they leave Treegap? What does Tuck say about it?

The Toad. "Durn fool thing must think its going to live forever."