

NAME: _____



Activity One

Katherine Paterson

Katherine Paterson is the author of Bridge to Terabithia and she has written many other books as well. What other books have you read that were written by Katherine Paterson?

Would you be more interested in reading a story about a boy or a story about a girl? Explain your choice.

The inspiration for Bridge to Terabithia came from a real life experience in which the author's son was dealing with the sudden and unexpected death of his friend. If you could give her some guidelines for her next novel, what would you recommend based on what is happening in your life at the moment?

Write three questions you would want to ask Katherine Paterson if you had the opportunity of meeting her.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

If you were a professional illustrator, what scene from Bridge to Terabithia would you most want to illustrate? Why? Answer and illustrate it below.



NAME: _____



Activity Two

The State of Virginia

The setting of the novel, Bridge to Terabithia, is that of rural Virginia. The fictional town of Lark Creek is outside of Washington D.C. in the geographical region of Appalachia. What do you know about this area? Investigate this area and collect as much information about it as you can. Include three additional points of interest about Virginia. Record your findings in the chart below.

The State of Virginia	
Location	
Population	
Capital City	
Languages Spoken	
Climate	
Wildlife	
Vegetation	
Physical Features (mountains, lakes, etc.)	
Industry	
Major Tourist Attractions	
First Point of Interest	
Second Point of Interest	
Third Point of Interest	



Activity Three

Conflict

Many fictional novels include one of three kinds of conflict, using the main character:

1. **Self vs. Self** – This is a form of inner conflict in which the character struggles to come to terms with something inside him or herself (feelings, attitudes, shortcomings, fear, etc.).
2. **Self vs. Another Character** – This is a form of outer conflict in which a character struggles with another character in the novel.
3. **Self vs. Society or Nature** – This is another kind of outer conflict, but here, the character struggles with an external force in society or nature (i.e., feeling like an outsider or not fitting in, struggling to survive in harsh or difficult climate, etc.)

Think about the conflict that happens in Bridge to Terabithia. Write a short essay about the conflict, and identify it as one of the kinds of conflict listed above. Be sure to give reasons for your ideas using evidence from the story.

NAME: _____



Activity Four

Setting

The novel, **Bridge to Terabithia** takes place in two very different worlds – the small town of Lark Creek, Virginia, and the imaginary, magical kingdom of Terabithia. Look back through the novel for words, phrases and other descriptions of each place. Record them in a chart below.

Lark Creek	Terabithia

What do you notice about these two places? What **similarities** are there between them?

NAME: _____



Activity Five

Grief, Death and Loss

Grief, death and loss are important themes in the novel, Bridge to Terabithia. In fact, the author, Katherine Paterson, experienced these personal challenges in her own life when her son's friend was tragically struck by lightning and died. Dealing with grief, death and loss are part of being human, and things that we all must face in our lives.

Now that you know about the personal tragedy in the author's own life, how does this information change your understanding and appreciation of her novel, Bridge to Terabithia?



Activity Six

Imagination

In the novel, Bridge to Terabithia, we see how the two main characters, Jess and Leslie, use their imaginations to escape the challenges of their daily lives. They create the magical kingdom of Terabithia, where they reign as king and queen.

Think about how imagination plays a part in your own life. Reading, especially works of fiction, brings us into our own imaginations. Daydreaming, watching movies, television and even playing video games can also engage our imagination.

- 1. Write down the ways in which your imagination is active in YOUR LIFE.**
- 2. Then think about the PURPOSE imagination serves in our lives, generally.**

Here are some questions for you to consider:

- Do you think it is important as a way to escape the pressures we face every day?
- Can our imaginations help us find solutions to problems?
- Can our imaginations help us grow and mature as human beings?
- Or do you think that retreating into one's imagination is useless, unproductive or a waste of time?

Think about the characters of Jess and Leslie as you write your response. Give good reasons for your opinions.
