

For teachers:

This novel works well both as an individual reading project, and as a “teacher read” text.

Before reading the book, ask students:

- If given the chance, would you want to live forever?
- If you could live forever, what would you do with your time?

Ask the same questions again after everyone has finished the book.

After you have finished the book, if possible, set time aside to let your students watch the film based on the book. Although similar, the book and the movie are not exactly the same. Comparing the movie and the book will help students develop critical thinking skills, as well as verbalizing and supporting opinions.

Answer the sentences below with the best answer.

- 1.) What was Winnie's last name?
 - a.) Martin
 - b.) Foster
 - c.) Babbitt
- 2.) Where did Winnie live?
 - a.) Treeg ap
 - b.) Oklahoma
 - c.) Pine Creek
- 3.) In the book, what was Winnie's companion by the fence?
 - a.) a rabbit
 - b.) a toad
 - c.) a bird
- 4.) Where did Winnie meet Jesse?
 - a.) at the lake
 - b.) at the oak tree
 - c.) in town
- 5.) What was Mae Tuck's favorite possession?
 - a.) an old music box
 - b.) a straw hat
 - c.) a necklace
- 6.) In the book, with whom did Winnie go fishing?
 - a.) Miles
 - b.) Jesse
 - c.) Tuck
- 7.) Who stopped the mysterious man from taking Winnie?
 - a.) Jesse
 - b.) Mae
 - c.) Tuck
- 8.) In the book, how did they get Mae out of jail?
 - a.) They dressed up in black cloaks and swords and pretended to chase Winnie in order to lure the guard outside.
 - b.) Miles took the bars out of the window in the jail and Winnie took Mae's place inside.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences

1. Why did Winnie want to run away?

2. Why didn't Jesse want Winnie to drink the water at the tree?

3. Why do you think Tuck used the water in the stream to describe the wheel of life?

4. Why was Mae Tuck arrested?

5. What did Winnie do with the water?

6. Do you think Tuck was glad to find the tombstone in the cemetery? Explain.

7. Would you change the end of the story? How?

Multiple Choice answers

- 1.) b. Foster
- 2.) a. Treegap
- 3.) b. a toad
- 4.) b. at the oak tree
- 5.) a. an old music box
- 6.) a. Miles
- 7.) b. Jesse
- 8.) b. Miles took the bars out of the window of the jail and Winnie took Mae's place inside

Sentence answers

Answers may vary; accept any reasonable answers.

- 1.) Basically , she was tired of her family watching her all the time. She thought she needed freedom.
- 2.) Because it would be a curse to live forever, and if she drank the water she would live forever.
- 3.) The water in the stream constantly moves just as life continues without waiting on anyone
- 4.) For hitting and killing the man in the yellow suit
- 5.) She poured it on a toad.