

# Tuck Everlasting

Grades 4-6

Written by Roy Sousa & David Twigg  
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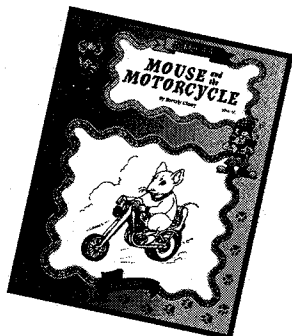
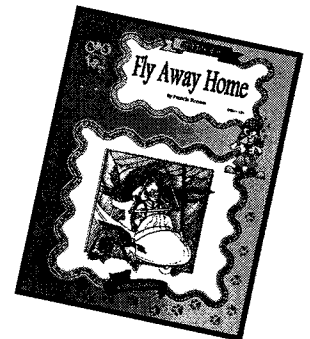
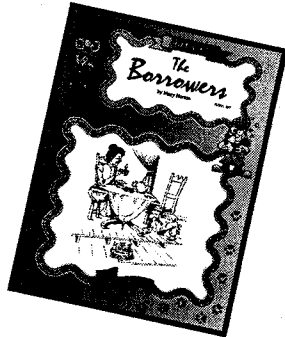
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**Look For**

# Other Junior - Novel Studies



|  |        |
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| Holes .....                                | 4-6    |
| Reading With Kenneth Oppel .....           | 4-6    |
| The Egypt Game .....                       | 4-6    |



# Tuck Everlasting

by Natalie Babbitt

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## Expectations

Students will:

- become involved in distinctive prose rich in imagery and humor.
- develop and reinforce many new and previously learned skills.
- be taught literary devices such as similes, metaphors, and personification used by the author and practice how to use them in their own writings.
- further develop and reinforce their higher level thinking skills.
- develop and grow their creative expressions.

## Synopsis of the Novel

### Tuck Everlasting

Tuck Everlasting is a fascinating story that explores the universal desire to live forever. After drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family is blessed with everlasting life. When ten year-old Winnie Foster accidentally stumbles onto their secret after running away from home, the Tucks take her away and explain why living forever may not be the blessing it may seem. Trouble begins when a mysterious stranger learns of their secret and wants to sell the spring water for a fortune. In the climax of the story, Winnie makes responsible decisions that have an impact on her world. She helps the Tucks keep their secret while taking her place in the normal cycle of life.

## All About the Author

### Natalie Babbitt

Natalie Babbitt was born in 1932 in Ohio and spent her childhood there. As a child, she enjoyed listening and reading stories of myths and fairy tales. Their magic was later woven into many of her own stories. The daughter of an artistic mother, Natalie's drawing ability was encouraged from a young age. In fact, she graduated from university with an art degree. She began her literary career by illustrating a book for her husband. After three children had grown, she began to write and illustrate her own books. Among her works are two books written in verse: *Dick Foote and the Shark* and *Phoebe's Revolt*. One of her books, *Knee-Knock Rise* was a Newberry Honour Book. *Tuck Everlasting*, an ALA Notable Children's Book is considered by many to be her best work.

## Books Written by Natalie Babbitt

Dick Foote, and the Shark, © 1967  
Phoebe's Revolt, © 1968  
The Search for Delicious, © 1969

Knee-Knock Rise, © 1970  
Goody Hall, © 1971  
The Devil's Storybook, © 1974

Tuck Everlasting, © 1977  
The Eyes of the Amaryllis, © 1978  
Herber Rowbarge, © 1984



## Teacher Input Suggestions

1. Obtain a copy of the *Fall of Freddie the Leaf* by Leo Buscaglia and read it to your class.
2. As an end-of-unit special activity, show Disney's, *The Lion King* which deals with the "circle of life."
3. For an interesting experiential outing, conduct a historic walk of your community. How has it changed over time? Include the jailhouse as part of your outing. For the adventurous, include a trip through the cemetery. Study the epitaphs.
4. Set up a terrarium in your class to house toads or frogs as they play a role in the story. Have students conduct observations.
5. An excellent nonfiction book on circles is *Circles* from the Shapes of Math, Science and Technology series by Catherine Sheldrick Ross. This can be a spring board for students to create "circle art." Display their art work.
6. Set up a special corner in the classroom for students to display old-fashioned memorabilia from the past.
7. Organize an "olden days" special day. Dress up in clothes of yesteryear. Decide on a year. See if students can find memorabilia from that time period. Grandparents are a wonderful addition to the classroom for special events like these.
8. Discuss time lines. Upon completion of the book, students can create a chronological chart of events. Have them create their own time lines.
9. Conduct a class debate as to whether Winnie should have drunk water from the spring.
10. On your classroom bulletin board compare images of your community from the past and present. Old newspaper clippings and photos help in this display.
11. Brainstorm a list of examples in nature that follow a pattern or life cycle. This can be displayed on flip-chart paper and added to on a daily basis. Example: moon cycles.
12. Raise a monarch butterfly from its larva stage as a caterpillar, to chrysalis to the emerging adult. Then set it free. Students are fascinated by witnessing its life cycle.
13. Conduct a discussion on why people run away.
14. Obtain a copy of the video, *Tuck Everlasting* and show it to the class.



## Discussion Questions

### *Prologue*

1. What do you think this story is going to be about?
2. In the prologue, what three events were about to occur?

### *Chapter One*

1. What did we learn about the wood in this chapter? What was unusual about it?
2. Describe the setting of the story including season, location, time period, mood, etc.

### *Chapter Two*

1. What did you learn that was peculiar about the Tuck family in this chapter?

### *Chapter Three*

1. Describe the character of Winnie and her relationship with her family.
2. Have you ever experienced the urge to run away from home? Why or why not?

### *Chapter Four*

1. Who do you think the stranger is and what is he looking for?

### *Chapter Five*

1. The author uses a writing style called personification in which things like the cottage, wood, and animals are given human qualities. The toad is a creature which the author personifies throughout the story. What do you think is the author's purpose in doing this?
2. Other than the characters, what do you think will play an important part in the story?
3. Describe the wood. Write about what you imagine to be in a wood or forest.
4. Describe Jesse and Winnie's introduction.
5. What do you think Mae Tuck meant by, "Well boys", she said, "her it is. The worst is happening at last."?