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Introduction

A good book can touch our lives like a good friend. Within its pages are words and characters that can inspire us to achieve our highest ideals. We can turn to it for companionship, recreation, comfort and guidance. It can also give us a cherished story to hold in our hearts forever.

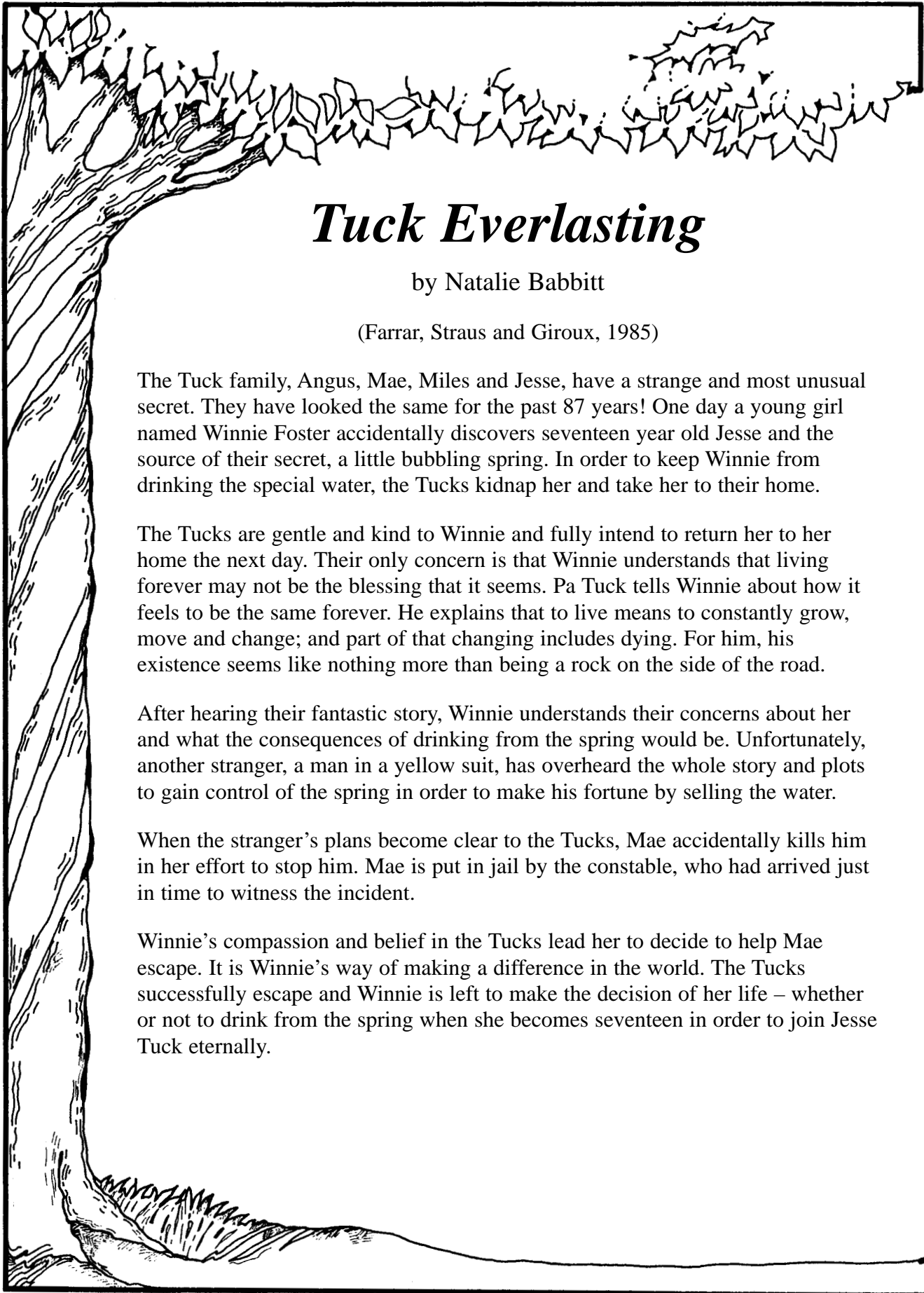
In *Literature Units*, great care has been taken to select books that are sure to become good friends!

Teachers who use this literature unit will find the following features to supplement their own valuable ideas.

- Sample Lesson Plans
- Pre-reading Activities
- A Biographical Sketch and Picture of the Author
- A Book Summary
- Vocabulary Lists and Suggested Vocabulary Activities
- Chapters grouped for study, with each section including:
 - *quizzes*
 - *hands-on projects*
 - *cooperative learning activities*
 - *cross-curriculum connections*
 - *extensions into the reader's own life*
- Post-reading Activities
- Book Report Ideas
- Research Ideas
- A Culminating Activity
- Three Different Options for Unit Tests
- Bibliography
- Answer Key

We are confident this unit will be a valuable addition to your lesson planning and hope that as you use our ideas, your students will increase their circle of 'friends' that they can have in books.





Tuck Everlasting

by Natalie Babbitt

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1985)

The Tuck family, Angus, Mae, Miles and Jesse, have a strange and most unusual secret. They have looked the same for the past 87 years! One day a young girl named Winnie Foster accidentally discovers seventeen year old Jesse and the source of their secret, a little bubbling spring. In order to keep Winnie from drinking the special water, the Tucks kidnap her and take her to their home.

The Tucks are gentle and kind to Winnie and fully intend to return her to her home the next day. Their only concern is that Winnie understands that living forever may not be the blessing that it seems. Pa Tuck tells Winnie about how it feels to be the same forever. He explains that to live means to constantly grow, move and change; and part of that changing includes dying. For him, his existence seems like nothing more than being a rock on the side of the road.

After hearing their fantastic story, Winnie understands their concerns about her and what the consequences of drinking from the spring would be. Unfortunately, another stranger, a man in a yellow suit, has overheard the whole story and plots to gain control of the spring in order to make his fortune by selling the water.

When the stranger's plans become clear to the Tucks, Mae accidentally kills him in her effort to stop him. Mae is put in jail by the constable, who had arrived just in time to witness the incident.

Winnie's compassion and belief in the Tucks lead her to decide to help Mae escape. It is Winnie's way of making a difference in the world. The Tucks successfully escape and Winnie is left to make the decision of her life – whether or not to drink from the spring when she becomes seventeen in order to join Jesse Tuck eternally.