

BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA: MOVIE VERSION

Study Guide compares the novel *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson to the movie *Bridge to Terabithia* (2007) starring Josh Hutcherson, AnnaSophia Robb and Zooey Deschanel. Directed by Gabor Csupo. Walt Disney Pictures.



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ISBN 978-1-937714-16-1

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SAMPLE BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA: MOVIE VERSION

THE MOVIE VERSION OF *BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA* IS NOT LIKE THE BOOK by Katherine Paterson

RECOMMENDED MOVIE: *Bridge to Terabithia* (2007) starring Josh Hutcherson, AnnaSophia Robb and Zooey Deschanel. Directed by Gabor Csupo. Walt Disney Pictures. Many plot points are accurate in this movie version. The movie adds plots, characters, and themes that are not in the book, but the general story sticks to the book. It's worth watching if you keep in mind that in the book Jess and Leslie are 10-years-old, not teenagers, and the book does not have a giant troll and flying monsters.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE MOVIE VERSION OF THE BOOK?

Plot: ★★☆☆☆ Characters: ★★★★★☆ Setting: ★★★★★☆
Structure: ★★★★★☆ Symbols: ★★★★★☆ Theme: ★★★★★☆

WHAT'S IN THE BOOK THAT'S NOT IN THE MOVIE?

Bessie the cow, Jess can't swim, the sacred grove, King of the Mountain, Christmas gifts, Easter service, paper dolls, cremation, funeral wreath, the National Gallery, the Smithsonian, characters including Grandma Burke, Mrs. Pierce, Wilma Dean, Bobby Sue Henshaw, Mrs. Prentice and Billy Morris.

WHAT'S IN THE MOVIE THAT'S NOT IN THE BOOK?

The greenhouse, pink sneakers, abandoned pickup, the treehouse, the lost keys, squogres and vultures, the giant troll, Mr. Bailey, Scott Hoager, Alexandra, Kenny the bus driver.

WHAT'S THE SAME?

The rope, the flooded creek, Terabithia, Prince Terrien, the race that Leslie wins, the stolen Twinkie, the Burke's gold living room, the trip to the museum with Miss Edmunds, Mrs. Myers, Leslie's accident, Jess's drawings, the trick played on Janice Avery, Leslie's gift of art supplies, Gary Fulcher.

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THE MOVIE: SUMMARY

The following is a scene-by-scene comparison of the movie to the corresponding chapters in the book.

THE MOVIE: CHAPTER 5 *The Giant Killers*

May Belle brags at school that she has a Twinkie in her lunch. (**ACCURATE**) Janice Avery takes the Twinkie. (**ACCURATE**) May Belle runs to Jess at recess and demands that Jess fight Janice Avery. (**ACCURATE**, but in the book May Belle wants Jess to kill Janice Avery) The other kids complain that Janice makes them pay to get in the bathroom, so Leslie leads them to the bathroom chanting, “Free to pee! Free to pee!” (**ERROR: Not in the book**) When the kids get to the restroom that Janice is guarding, May Belle demands her Twinkie back. (**ERROR: Not in the book**) Jess asks May Belle if she knows what will happen if he fights Janice, and May Belle says that Janice will win. (**ACCURATE**) Jess explains that he can’t fight Janice because if he does he will get kicked out of school. (**ACCURATE**, but in the book Leslie, not Jess, explains the situation to May Belle) Leslie promises May Belle that they will get even with Janice. (**ACCURATE**)

While drawing in his room Jess thinks about what Leslie said about his being the king of the Terabithians. (**ERROR: Not in the book**)

The next day at school Jess hands Leslie a drawing that says, “Giant Troll Hunting Season Begins Today!” (**ERROR: Not in the book**) When Leslie arrives at Terabithia, Jess is waiting for her with a dog that he gives to her. (**ERROR: In the book Jess gives the dog to Leslie as a Christmas present**) Leslie loves the dog and names it Prince Terrien – P.T. for short. (**ACCURATE**)

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