

Walter A. Kassenbrock Elementary School

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Summer 2017 Grade 4 Required Reading

Required Summer Reading for all students: *Bridge to Terabithia* By Katherine Paterson

We will be starting the year with a book discussion. Here are questions to consider while reading *Bridge to Terabithia* over the summer:

- Leslie says to Jess, "We need a place. . . just for us. . . It might be a whole secret country, and you and I would be the leaders of it" (p. 39). In your own words, what does Terabithia represent to Jess and Leslie? Why is it so important to them?
- At the end of the story, Jess uses wood planks to build a solid bridge to Terabithia. Why do you think he does this? Why does he decide to share Terabithia with May Belle? What does this show us about how he is changing?
- After he learns that May Belle has discovered Terabithia, Jess feels that "his life was delicate as a dandelion. One little puff from any direction, and it was blown to bits." How does this simile help us understand Jess, his life, and his feelings about Terabithia?
- One theme in *Bridge to Terabithia* is friendship. What do you like most about Jess and Leslie's friendship? Does their friendship seem realistic to you? What can we learn from this book about friendship?