Tuck Everlasting

Study Guide
March 7-24, 2019

Columbus Children's Theatre
Why A Study Guide?
Welcome to Tuck Everlasting! Within our study guide you will find helpful tips to prepare your students to experience and talk about the performance. Use this guide to:

• Introduce students to theatre etiquette
• Introduce students to the roles of a theatrical production
• Share insider knowledge about the world of the show
• Explore themes of Tuck Everlasting
• Further discuss the show after seeing a performance
• Connect Tuck Everlasting to your classroom curriculum across a number of subject areas
• Dive into further readings to learn even more!

For more information about Columbus Children’s Theatre and how we inspire, enrich and empower the imaginations of children and their families through live theatre and theatre education, visit our website at www.columbuschildrenstheatre.org

About Tuck Everlasting
Regional Premiere - If you could live for all eternity, would you? Even if you could, would you want to? That’s exactly what eleven-year-old Winnie Foster asks herself after she runs away and meets the Tuck family; a family with the secret to eternal life. All anyone has to do is drink from their hidden spring, and they too, can gain life everlasting. Join us as Winnie learns about the magic that surrounds this mysterious family and their secret spring, while fighting to protect their way of life from a sinister man in a yellow suit. Based on the classic best-selling children’s book by Natalie Babbitt and the Disney movie, Tuck Everlasting is a memorable journey, full of love, family, and an extraordinary choice whether or not to live forever.
Theatre Etiquette

Theatre etiquette is a simple set of rules to help audience members fully enjoy the show, and for actors and the backstage crew to safely perform their work for you! Here are some important elements of theatre etiquette at CCT:

- Arrive on time
- For the safety of the actors and the audience, please stay seated for the performance
- Visit the restroom before the performance begins
- The use of electronic devices (other than access devices), is strictly prohibited
- Please do not talk to your neighbor during the performance
- If you like something that you see, you may clap or laugh - it shows the actors that you like what they are doing!

Suggested Reading

Sarah, Plain and Tall
By, Patricia MacLachlan
Grades 3-5

Summer of the Monkeys
By, Wilson Rawls
Grades 4-8

Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes
By, Eleanor Coerr
Grades 3-5

Theatre Location

The Park Street Theatre
512 Park Street
Columbus 43215
Who Is Involved In A Theatrical Production?

Performances at Columbus Children’s Theatre are the result of groups of people working together. Many people know and understand what actors are - the people on the stage telling the story. But did you know that there are more people working hard “behind-the-scenes” to make the performance happen? Below are just a few of those people.

**The Director:**

Responsible for the overall concept of the show - they guide a vision to create a world on stage in which the show may exist. Works with the actors to help them interpret their characters and move on stage. Works closely with designers in planning the sounds, lights, scenery, costumes, props - basically, everything you see on the stage.

**The Designers:**

Work with the director and with each other to create the look of the lights, scenery, costumes, make-up, sound and special effects. They make the world on stage come to life.

**The Crew:**

There are a lot of different crew people. Some help build the scenery, costumes, and props you see on the stage, and some are working backstage during the show helping actors change costumes, moving pieces of scenery on and off, or operating the lights and sound.

**The Choreographer:**

Directs the dances on stage and designs dance moves that help tell the story of a musical. They also teach the dances to the actors!

**The Stage Manager:**

Organizes every aspect of the production - schedules, resources and communications. In charge of making everything run smoothly from rehearsal to performance. Guarantees the same great performance every single time, whether you attend a show during the school day, or with your family in the evening or on the weekend.

**The Cast:**

The Cast is what we call all of the actors who are on stage performing the characters in front of the audience.

**The Audience:**

This is where you come in! The show you see would not exist without you. The hard work everyone puts in to create a show is all meant to share a story with you.
Who Are The Characters?
As described in the Tuck Everlasting script given to all actors, directors, and designers:

WINNIE FOSTER - 11 years old
MOTHER - Winnie’s mother
NANA - Winnie’s grandmother
JESSE TUCK - the youngest of the Tuck family
MILES TUCK - Jesse’s older brother
MAE TUCK - Jesse’s mother
ANGUS TUCK - Jesse’s father
MAN IN THE YELLOW SUIT - a nefarious leader of a traveling carnival, in search of the fountain of youth
CONSTABLE JOE - head of the police force in Treegap
HUGO - Constable Joe’s sidekick and son
ENSEMBLE (13)
Themes From Tuck Everlasting

**Independence**
Winnie desperately wants to be independent and freed from her mother’s harsh rules. It is her desire for independence that makes her run away from home, go into the woods, and meet the Tucks. Independence comes in the form of choices for Winnie. She chooses to walk through the gate and venture into the wood. She chooses to stay with the Tucks and get to know them. She chooses to fight against the man in the yellow suit. And in the end, she chooses not to drink from the spring, but to live the way life was meant to be lived, with death as part of life.

**Life Cycle**
In this story, the Tucks are envious of Winnie for her ability to live a “normal” life, and Winnie is envious of the Tucks for having the ability to live forever. While it may seem exciting to have the answer to eternal life, the reality of it is lonely and scary. The Tucks must live separately for long periods of time so that people do not become suspicious of them. They will never be able to make friends because they can’t show people that they never age, and they have to watch all of their other family members die. Winnie is given the choice to drink the spring water once she turns 17, so she can be with Jesse Tuck forever, but she has a lot to consider. Does she want to live forever, or is it better to let life happen?

**Greed**
The man in the yellow suit is a very greedy person. He wants to find the Tuck’s hidden spring so that he can package and sell the secret to eternal life. He is only concerned with making money, so much so that he is willing to harm Winnie to get what he wants. He controls the Fosters and then tries to control the Tucks. The Tucks show a great deal of selflessness, even in the face of greed and danger, so that they can protect their secret and ensure that no one else has to suffer eternal life. They isolate themselves and agree not to form outside relationships so that people do not become suspicious of them.
What's Next?
Use these questions to spark conversation on the way back to school from the theatre, in your classroom the next day, or as writing prompts for students’ journals!

- If you could live forever, would you want to?
- Why does Winnie tell the toad she wants to run away?
- What is your first impression of the man in the yellow suit?
- Why do the Tucks kidnap Winnie? What do you think you would have done in Winnie’s place?
- How had the Tucks figured out they were going to live forever?
- What important decision does Winnie make when she pours the spring water on the toad?
Activity Time!
Use these activities with your students to deepen their understanding of the story, and to add enrichment across content areas!

Narrative Writing
Invite students to explore the idea of living forever in a story of their own. Have students read their stories aloud to the class, then lead a discussion on their topic and point of view.

Who, What, Where, When, Why?
Have students think about one character in the book and write five phrases about them to answer the five Ws.
Example:
WHO: Winifred Foster Jackson
WHAT: Dear wife, Dear mother
WHERE: Treegap graveyard
WHEN: 1870-1948
WHY: Stayed on the wheel of life

Art Project
Have students draw or paint pictures of their favorite scene from the musical. They can paint the carnival scene, or the Tuck’s woods, or even a picture of the Toad!
Activities Continued!

**Persuasive Writing Project**
Let students choose to be either Winnie or Jesse, and then decide if they feel immortality is a blessing or a curse. The “Winnies” write letters to Jesse. Based on their decision about living forever, they tell him whether or not they plan to drink the water when they turn seventeen. The “Jesse” letters encourage or discourage her to drink the water based on the writer’s opinion about the benefit of eternal life. The students can read their letters out loud if they wish, or participate in a class debate based on the students’ viewpoints.

We can’t wait to perform for you! See you at the Theatre!