

Name: _____

Tuck Everlasting

Prologue - Chapter 2

Close Read: Author's Techniques for Setting

Directions: Use the passage below taken from page 4 of Tuck Everlasting to perform a close read. Then, respond to the essential question in a complete paragraph using textual evidence as support.

Essential Question: How does the author give information about the woods to you, as a reader? Use specific textual evidence to support your thinking.

PreRead: Skim the passage quickly and circle any words that are not familiar to you. See if you can use context clues or your neighbor to define those words.

1st Read: Follow along in the passage as the teacher reads it aloud. While you listen, draw a picture below the passage of what you hear. Use as much detail as possible in your picture.

2nd Read: Read the passage again on your own. Highlight words and phrases that help you better visualize and understand the woods mentioned in this passage. Then, answer the question below using the sentence starter.

a. What are the most important details of the text?

The most important details of the text are...I am inferring these details are important because...

b. What type of techniques does the author use to provide those details about the woods?

The techniques used by the author are...

3rd Read: Finally, read the passage with a partner. Place a star and a quick note next to any clues the setting provides about the upcoming story. Then, answer the following questions using the sentence starters.

c. Why do you think the author spends so much time describing the setting?

The author spends so much time describing the setting because...

d. What inferences about the plot can you make based on the setting description?

The text says about the setting. Therefore, I can infer ...

Post Read Reflection: How does the author give information about the woods to you, as a reader? Use specific textual evidence to support your thinking.

There was something strange about the wood. If the look of the first house suggested that you'd better pass it by, so did the look of the wood, but for quite a different reason. The house was so proud of itself that you wanted to make a lot of noise as you passed, and maybe even throw a rock or two. But the wood had a sleeping, otherworld appearance that made you want to speak in whispers. This, at least, is what the cows must have thought: "Let it keep its peace; we won't disturb it."

Whether the people felt that way about the wood or not is difficult to say. There were some, perhaps, who did. But for the most part the people followed the road around the wood because that was the way it led. There was no road through the wood. And anyway, for the people, there was another reason to leave the wood to itself: it belonged to the Fosters, the owners of the touch-me-not cottage, and was therefore private property in spite of the fact that it lay outside the fence and was perfectly accessible.

The ownership of land is an odd thing when you come to think of it. How deep, after all, can it go? If a person owns a piece of land, does he own it all the way down, in every narrowing dimensions, till it meets all other pieces at the center of the earth? Or does ownership consist only of a thin crust under which the friendly worms have never heard of trespassing?