

Name _____

Symbols of Terabithia Answer Key

(Sample Responses)

Rope

- Literal: The swing rope Jess and Leslie use to cross into Terabithia.
- Symbolic: Represents risk, adventure, and the fragile connection between imagination and reality.
- Connection: The rope allows them to enter their secret world, but its danger also foreshadows tragedy.

Water

- Literal: The creek beneath the rope that floods after heavy rains.
- Symbolic: Represents both nature's power and the barrier between childhood innocence and loss.
- Connection: The water becomes the site of Leslie's death, forcing Jess to confront grief and change.

Terabithia

- Literal: The imaginary kingdom Jess and Leslie create in the woods.
- Symbolic: Represents imagination, freedom, and the safe space where they can rule their own world.
- Connection: Terabithia helps Jess grow braver and more confident, even after Leslie is gone.

Reflection Example:

Terabithia itself is the most powerful symbol because it shows the strength of imagination to help people cope with fear, sadness, and change.