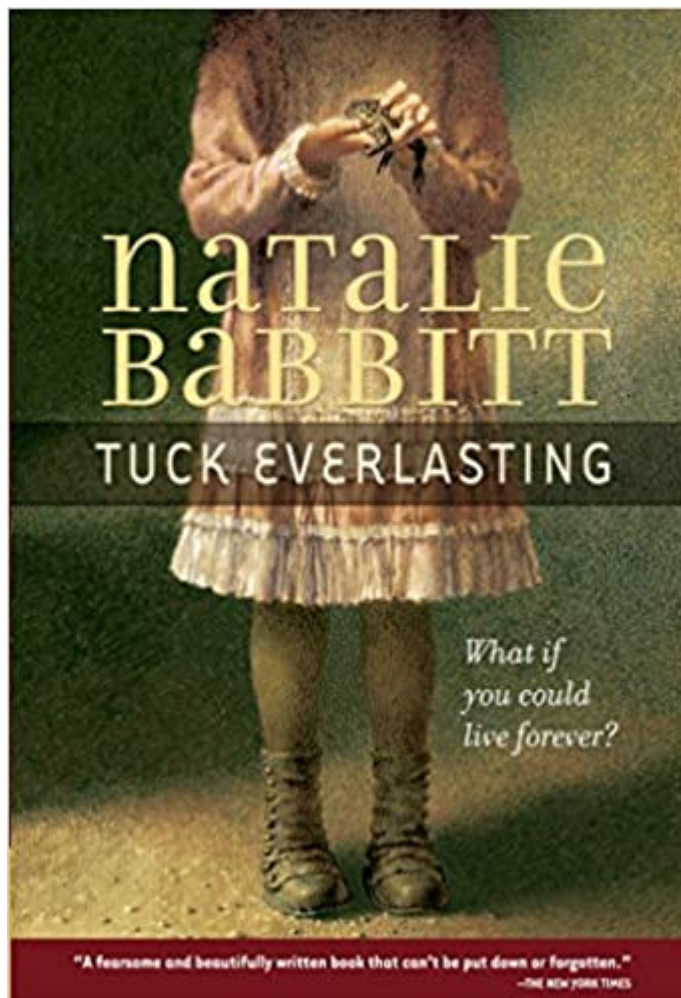


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# Tuck Everlasting



## Synopsis

Doomed to or blessed with eternal life after drinking from a magic spring, the Tuck family wanders about trying to live as inconspicuously and comfortably as they can. When ten-year-old Winnie Foster stumbles on their secret, the Tucks take her home and explain why living forever at one age is less a blessing than it might seem. Complications arise when Winnie is followed by a stranger who wants to market the spring water for a fortune. This title has Common Core connections.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 770L (What's this?)

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Square Fish (June 23, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0312369816

ISBN-13: 978-0312369811

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.5 x 194.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 1,923 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #939 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Reference > English as a Second Language #11 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Reading & Writing #32 in Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 08

## Customer Reviews

Imagine coming upon a fountain of youth in a forest. To live forever--isn't that everyone's ideal? For the Tuck family, eternal life is a reality, but their reaction to their fate is surprising. Award winner Natalie Babbitt (Knee-Knock Rise, The Search for Delicious) outdoes herself in this sensitive, moving adventure in which 10-year-old Winnie Foster is kidnapped, finds herself helping a murderer out of jail, and is eventually offered the ultimate gift--but doesn't know whether to accept it. Babbitt asks profound questions about the meaning of life and death, and leaves the reader with a greater appreciation for the perfect cycle of nature. Intense and powerful, exciting and poignant, Tuck Everlasting will last forever--in the reader's imagination. An ALA Notable Book. (Ages 9 to 12) --Emilie Coulter --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

• Rarely does one find a book with such prose. Flawless in both style and structure, it is rich in imagery and punctuated with light fillips of humor. • The Horn Book Magazine • Beautiful and descriptive language is the strength of Babbitt's fantasy about Winnie and her encounter with the Tuck family, who cause her--and readers--to ponder an important question: What would it be like to live forever? • Booklist • Probably the best work of our best children's novelist. • Harper's • A fearsome and beautifully written book that can't be put down or forgotten. • The New Yorker • Exciting and excellently written. • The New York Times Book Review • Natalie Babbitt's great skill is spinning fantasy with the lilt and sense of timeless wisdom of the old fairy tales. . . . It lingers on, haunting your waking hours, making you ponder. • The Boston Globe • With its serious intentions and light touch the story is, like the Tucks, timeless. • Chicago Sun-Times • This book is as shapely, crisp, sweet, and tangy as a summer-ripe pear. • Entertainment Weekly

A beautiful story that is timeless! It's also a perfect length for you and your children to read a little quicker without being overwhelmed by the volume of the wonderful children's books today. The story is about 100 pages give or take. And I have found with some children, the long length of a book can deter them from reading. This is a perfect choice to try with ALL children young and old. The story is about ten year old Winnie Foster, (who is almost eleven years old), who feels too confined at home and wants to explore more of the world around her...just beyond her front gate. She decides to run past her front gate to see what is beyond and meets a boy Jesse Tuck and his family who intrigue her and didn't know lived on her large family property beyond her front gate in what is called "The Wood". As she gets to know the Tuck family, she finds herself learning so much about different ways of life and also a magical secret that they must protect with Winnie's help. Winnie has to decide if she should keep the secret and in the process learns the meaning of enjoying life every day, (without the need to have such a rigid schedule). She finds new adventures and magic she never dreamed was out in the world beyond her front gate.

Tuck Everlasting is well written, and even for being a short book, definitely worth reading. At the beginning it starts out as a small mystery for the reader, later on turning into a short story definitely focused on showing the main character's detailed thoughts. An interesting story with one main theme -- if you could live forever, would you? Tuck Everlasting keeps you wondering what the characters are going to do, and if the decisions of the characters are good ones. A must read, with a

GREAT epilogue! F.Y.I. This review was written by an eleven year old home schooler.

The story *Tuck Everlasting* was part of my summer reading requirements, and I found it hauntingly beautiful. The descriptions of the settings and moods of the main character, Winnie were so vibrant it was easy to feel as if you were in the story, as an invisible observer. [Warning: Spoilers!] I was especially drawn to the scene when the antagonist threatened to advertise the immortalizing water. I felt that the only thing to do was kill him, but then I thought that this wasn't the type of story that would include killings. I was wrong, and it was relieving to know that the ultimate evil did not last very long, and pleasing to see that this wasn't your run-of-the-mill story where the plot could easily be guessed. They made a movie based on the book, and from what the synopsis says, I believe it is a story of romance. In my opinion, that's not what this book is about. It's more about a girl who wishes to get out of the confines of everyday life, and is changed by what she encounters. So she just happens to fall in love, as most main characters do, but she needs to stop aging at 17 in order to stay with him. It doesn't take long for her to realize that life is a cycle, and she wishes to experience it all. The romance doesn't go any farther than that. It's more of those kinds of stories that get you to think very deeply about life.

I first remember this book when my children were young and my wife and I read stories to them out loud. It would really catch my imagination. So when I ran across it again, I thought I should read it to see if I thought as much of it being older and maybe wiser. I like it again! The atmosphere, the feeling of loneliness and the question of living forever still makes me think. It reminds me of something my elderly mother said that went something like this: "It is a good thing that we get old so that young people can have a chance to be experts. If not for getting old and dying they would never be able to do more and know more" and would languish in mediocrity I might add.

This was one of my favorite books from childhood. I just read it to my almost 9-year old twin girls for a bedtime story. It is just as beautiful as I remembered and my daughters loved it. The language is very poetic but a little complicated and probably would not have been appropriate for younger children. The story is about a family who finds the fountain of youth and a young girl who stumbles upon them and her choice of whether to live forever or not - and leave all that she loves behind. It is a beautiful story which invokes conversations with your children about the life cycle, its importance and why what we wish for is not always as great as it seems.

I have liked this story since I was very young. It's touched by and the author has a beautiful way with words. No complicated vocabulary, yet painting beautiful pictures in your mind, and evoking deep emotions, even as an adult. Please do not miss this story. It's just right for a ten year old who loves to read or an 87 year old who is nostalgic.

I remember reading this book when I was a child, so I wanted to re-read it and see if I liked it as much as I did back then. It is a delightful book, a timeless classic. The Tuck family is so loveable. In this story, the Tuck family drank from a spring that has caused them to live forever and be impervious to things that would kill anybody else. You get to see, from their point of view, what it would be like to live forever. And how people and other creatures are not meant for that. The one thing I don't like about this book is that the toad ends up living forever as well. I can't help but feel sorry for the toad. I think this book is perfect for all ages, although especially for grade and middle school students. It's a delight and an eternal classic.

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