***Tuck Everlasting***

***Chapter 22***

***Summary and Analysis:***

***Brief Summary***

Winnie's family had changed from the experience, too. When she announced she was going outside, they told her to be careful and to come in if it got too hot, but they did not insist she stay indoors. She walked to the gate and looked at the worn earth. She thought of Mae in the jail and compared her confinement to Mae's.

As she stood there, she saw the toad on the other side of the street. She worried for him and went to get him a drink. She asked her grandmother for a dish of water for the toad. Her grandmother balked at first, but then gave in to Winnie's request. She followed Winnie as Winnie carried the bowl. However, when they got to the place the toad had been, he was gone. She returned to the yard and poured the bowl of water on the parched earth by the gate. Her grandmother returned to house now that Winnie was safely back in the yard. She asked Winnie not to stay out much longer and Winnie agreed.

She sat on the ground and began to think about how she could help Mae. She was not there long before Jesse appeared. He told her how they were going to break Mae out of jail that evening and then leave Treegap. After telling Winnie the plan, he told her a different plan as he handed her a bottle of water. He told her again to drink it when she was seventeen and to come find them. He would leave clues. He asked her to say she would do it and look for them in seven years. Winnie never really responded, but she took the bottle.

She realized, as she sat there talking with Jesse, what she could do to help Mae. She told him she would take Mae's place in the cell. No one would notice Mae was missing until morning and that would give them enough time to get far away. Jesse agreed it would work, but he did not think Tuck would like it. In any case, just as Winnie's grandmother called her and asked who she was talking to, they agreed to meet at midnight. Winnie turned and answered her grandmother and when she turned back around, Jesse was gone. She knew tonight she would make a difference in the world.

***Brief Analysis:***

The author uses Jesse and the bottle to push Winnie into taking immortality, but the reader knows that Winnie has seen so much and learned so much that she is not sure she wants to live forever.

The author also explains more about Winnie's contribution to Mae's escape and protection of the Tucks. The reader sees the exchange between the Tucks and Winnie as Winnie decides to take Mae's place in the jail. She is protecting herself, the Tucks and the world.

***Summary and Analysis:***

It is an incredibly hot day. Winnie sits outside in the yard, and sees her toad, which looks parched and unhappy. She goes inside to get some water to put on the toad, but when she returns, the toad is gone. Winnie's mother and grandmother are sitting inside to escape the heat, so Jesse is able to approach Winnie by the fence. He tells her that he, Miles, and Tuck are going to break Mae out of jail - Miles will use his carpentry knowledge to remove the window. He does worry that the constable will notice she's missing when he conducts one of his nightly patrols, but that doesn't matter. Jesse has come to say goodbye to Winnie. He also gives her a bottle of water from the spring, and tells her that if she drinks it when she's seventeen, he'll find her and she can come live with the Tucks. Winnie takes the water, and offers Jesse a plan. She says that she can take Mae's place in the jail - she'll burrow under the blankets in the bed so that the constable doesn't notice Mae is missing. This will give the Tuck family more time to get away. Jesse is worried about what will happen to Winnie if she goes through with this plan, but she insists that she'll be fine. They plan to meet at midnight. Winnie's grandmother calls to her, and Jesse leaves.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part***

***Summary Part 1:***

After breakfast the next morning, [Winnie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/winnie-foster) heads outside. Her parents treat her carefully and while they normally would insist she stay inside on such a hot day, they just ask her to come in if it gets too hot. Winnie leans against the [fence](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/symbols/the-fence) and thinks of [Mae](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/mae-tuck) in the jailhouse. She suddenly notices the [toad](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/the-toad) on the other side of the road. It looks dry and parched, so Winnie runs inside to ask [Granny](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters) for some water to give the toad a drink. Though Granny wrinkles her nose, she explains that toads take water in through their skin and accompanies Winnie back outside with a bowl of water. The toad is gone when they get there, so Winnie dumps the water on the ground. It evaporates immediately and Granny goes back inside.

***Analysis Part 1:***

When Winnie’s parents let her go outside, it shows that they recognize that she's a more mature person than she was two days ago. The fact that Winnie is back inside her fence suggests that her return home represents a return to childhood, though Winnie's desire to help the toad also seems to come from the things she learned with the Tucks--in other words, it's a mark of her newfound emotional maturity, even if she is physically stuck inside the fence.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Winnie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/winnie-foster) sits down and closes her eyes. A few minutes later, [Jesse](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/jesse-tuck) interrupts her reverie. Winnie grabs his hand through the [fence](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/symbols/the-fence) and asks if they have a plan to get [Mae](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/mae-tuck) out. Jesse whispers that [Miles](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/miles-tuck) is planning to use his carpentry skills to remove the window in the jail cell so Mae can climb through tonight. The [constable](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/the-constable), however, is so proud to be using the jail that he'll certainly notice immediately. He says that he's come to say goodbye, as his family will have to leave for a long time. He gives Winnie a small bottle of spring water so that when she's seventeen, she can drink it and join them.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Reaching through the fence to Jesse reminds the reader and Winnie that the fence isn't an impenetrable barrier. It's something that she can pass through, reach through, and even mentally exist on either side. The bottle of water is effectively a symbol of the choices that Winnie will need to make as she grows up. Now, she can choose to stop her life and join Jesse, or she can choose to keep on living and changing.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Winnie](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/winnie-foster) accepts the bottle and excitedly whispers that she can help. She says that after [Mae](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/mae-tuck) escapes, she can take her place in the jail cell, make herself look large, and fool the [constable](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/the-constable). [Jesse](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/tuck-everlasting/characters/jesse-tuck) says it might work and asks what Winnie's family will say. Winnie says that it doesn't matter what her family thinks, since she wants to help and needs to get the Tucks out of this situation that she got them into in the first place. They agree to meet at midnight and Jesse slips away.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Winnie's lack of interest in the bottle--and her interest in helping Mae instead--foreshadows Winnie's choice to not drink the water. It's more important for her to help her friends than it is to live forever and be one of them, even at this early point in her development. Here, Winnie displays her newfound sense of autonomy and morality by taking responsibility for her actions and relying on her friendships to guide her through this complex situation.