

Bridge to Terabithia – Lesson Plan (Ages 4–8)

Objective: Children will explore friendship, imagination, courage, and safety, and connect the story to their own experiences.

Materials:

- *Bridge to Terabithia* book (optional)
 - Paper, crayons, markers, or colored pencils
 - Small toys, blocks, LEGO, or natural items (sticks, leaves, rocks)
 - Tray, box lid, or small table for building
 - Printable Terabithia Adventure Tracker
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1. Talk About the Story (5 minutes) Ask your child:

- Who are the main characters? What do you like about them?
- What do Jess and Leslie do together that's fun?
- How does their secret place, Terabithia, make them happy or brave?

Tip: Keep answers short and let them explain in their own words.

2. Introduce Themes (5 minutes) Talk about 2 main ideas:

- **Friendship:** Good friends help each other, make life fun, and help you feel brave.
- **Imagination & Fun Places:** Imaginary worlds can make us happy and help us try new things.
- **Courage:** Trying new things can feel scary, but it helps us grow.
- **Safety & Communication:** Always tell a parent or guardian where you are going and who you are with.
- **Dealing with Bullies:** Friends should treat each other kindly. If someone is mean, tell a trusted adult and remember you deserve to be safe and happy.

Ask simple questions:

- Who is your friend, and what do you like to do together?
 - How do you know if a friend is a good friend?
 - What should you do if someone is mean to you?
 - Why is it important to tell your parents where you are going?
 - If you had a magic place like Terabithia, what would it look like?
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3. Main Activity: Build Your Own Terabithia (15–20 minutes)

- Using toys, blocks, LEGO, or natural items, create a mini version of a magical place.
- Include: castles, forts, treehouses, animals, rivers, bridges, or hiding spots.
- Share stories: Ask your child to tell a short story about something fun or brave that happens in their Terabithia.

Optional Activity: Draw Your Magic Place

- Give paper and crayons/markers.
 - Prompt: *Draw your secret place where you feel happy, safe, or brave.*
 - Share drawings and discuss what makes each place special.
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4. Prepare for the Movie (2–3 minutes)

- Remind your child to notice:
 - How the characters are friends
 - How they use imagination to have fun
 - Times they are brave or try new things
 - *Optional:* Keep drawings or mini Terabithia creations nearby to compare with the movie scenes.
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5. Terabithia Adventure Tracker (Printable Activity)

- Watch the movie and look for these things. Draw, circle, or write your answers!
 1. **Friendship Moments:** Draw or write about a time Jess and Leslie are being good friends.
 2. **Imagination & Magic:** Draw something magical they do in Terabithia.
 3. **Brave Moments:** Circle or draw a time when someone tries something new or brave.
 4. **Being Safe & Kind:** Draw or write about how they tell each other the truth, help each other, or act safely.
 5. **My Favorite Part:** Draw or write your favorite scene.
 6. **My Secret Place (Optional):** Draw your own Terabithia or magic place here.