1) Why is Winnie unhappy at the beginning of the novel?

2) How does the author show that the Fosters are not very neighborly?

3) Why is the toad important to the story?

4) When he sees her at the spring, why does Jesse try to stop Winnie from drinking the water?

5) Why doesn’t Winnie ask the man in the yellow suit for help when she is being kidnapped?

6) Why does Winnie feel less scared when she hears the music from the music box?

7) What is the man in the yellow suit’s motive for blackmailing the Fosters?

8) Why does Tuck say he and his family are “just like rocks in the road”?

9) What do you think of Jesse’s suggestion to Winnie that she wait until she is 17 to drink from the spring?

10) Miles says, “People got to do something useful if they’re going to take up space in the world.” Jesse says, “Life’s to enjoy yourself, isn’t it? What else is it good for?” How do Miles and Jesse view life differently? Who do you agree with more, and why?

11) Why does Winnie tell the constable that she wasn’t kidnapped? How have her feelings about the Tucks changed since they first kidnapped her?

12) Why is Tuck worried about Mae being hung on the gallows?

13) What important decision does Winnie make when she pours her bottle of spring water on the toad?

14) What does Tuck mean when he sees Winnie’s grave and says, “Good girl”?

15) Would you drink from the spring so you could live forever? Why or why not?

16) What do you think this quote from the book means? “Don’t be afraid of death; be afraid of an un-lived life. You don’t have to live forever. You just have to live.”