

## Chapter 5: The Giant Killers

### Summary 1

One day on the bus, May Belle makes the mistake of shrieking across the bus to a friend that her father gave her Twinkies in her lunch. Unsurprisingly, Janice Avery steals May Belle's Twinkies at lunchtime. May Belle immediately runs screaming to Jess, demanding that he beat her up. Jess is loath to do so, since Janice is a lot bigger than he, but May Belle insists that he is "just yellor" and that a good big brother would beat her up. Leslie intervenes and tells May Belle that she and Jess will find some other way of getting back at Janice, explaining that the principal will kick Jess out of the school if he's caught fighting a girl. Jess gratefully agrees.

In Terabithia, they come up with a plan: they write a love letter to Janice from Willard Hughes, the boy every girl in the seventh grade has a crush on. The letter says that Willard is madly in love with Janice and wants to walk her home from school the next day. The next day in school Jess slips it into her desk. Sure enough, Janice falls for it, and misses the bus the next day, only to have to walk home alone when Willard obviously does not show up. Jess feels a little bit badly for her, but feels they could not have done anything else. The next morning, Janice is furious, and May Belle is thrilled to know that her brother did so much for her.

### Summary 2: The Giant Killers

[May Belle](#) brings a package of Twinkies to school for lunch, a rare treat from her father. She brags about it on the bus and is overheard by seventh-grade bully [Janice Avery](#), who later steals the Twinkies from her. May Belle runs to [Jess](#), demanding he beat Janice up and then calling him "yellor" when he sensibly refuses. [Leslie](#) calms May Belle down and promises she and Jess will get revenge on Janice.

Later that day in [Terabithia](#) Jess and Leslie devise a plan. Leslie proposes they write a fake love note to Janice from Willard Hughes, the seventh-grade heartthrob. In the note they lay it on thick with words of love and adoration and ask Janice to meet Willard behind the school so they can walk home together. Leslie predicts—in fact, counts on it—Janice will brag to her friends about the

note and will thus be humiliated.

Jess plants the note in Janice's desk while Leslie distracts Mrs. Pierce, the seventh-grade teacher. As predicted, Janice doesn't get on the bus that afternoon, and her friend Wilma Dean tells the bus driver Janice is meeting Willard. Billy Morris, a student on the bus, contradicts Wilma, having just seen Willard leaving on another bus. Wilma and Billy have a shouting match over it, and there is no doubt the story will be all over school the next day. "Poor old Janice Avery," laments Jess. When Janice gets on the bus the next day, she is fuming, and Leslie whispers the reason to May Belle. "We wrote that letter ... but you mustn't tell anyone, or she'll kill us." May Belle agrees, "her eyes shining."

### Summary 3: The Giant Killers

One day, as May Belle (Jess's younger sister) is riding the bus, she makes the mistake of loudly announcing that she has Twinkies. As expected, seventh grader [Janice Avery](#), the overweight school bully, steals them from her. May Belle demands that Jess exact revenge by beating Janice up, but Leslie explains that a smarter route must be taken to avoid punishment. In *Terabithia*, Leslie dictates a "love letter from Willard Hughes," who all the seventh grade girls have a crush on, and Jess writes it and plants it in Janice's desk. Janice falls for the letter, which states that Willard wants to walk her home, and she ends up having to walk home alone, much to her embarrassment. May Belle ends up delighted with this form of revenge

## The Giant Killers

### (Main Points)

- Leslie and Jess have lots of imaginary enemies in Terabithia, but in real life they have to face Janice Avery. She and her buddies go around bullying everyone.
- Jess can't stop her from bullying May Belle. Their dad brings May Belle Twinkies from town and she brags about it on the bus. Jess isn't surprised at all when the big bully Janice immediately snags them. He can't do anything to stop her. May Belle calls him "yeller" (5.16) or a coward.
- Leslie smooths things over, saying Jess can't beat Janice up – the odds are stacked against him – but they'll figure out another way to get revenge for the Twinkies. They promise.
- At Terabithia they plan a way to "ma[k]e a fool of" Janice (5.36) – Leslie says that's the best way to get her back.
- Leslie thinks they should write her a love letter from Willard Hughes, whom Janice has a crush on; she'll tell people and get really embarrassed.
- Jess teases her, and Leslie tells him about *Hamlet*, while he imagines what he could paint.
- The next day they have to sneak around to deliver the letter. Leslie is lookout and distracts Mrs. Pierce while Jess finds the right desk and plants the letter for Janice.
- At recess they realize she got the letter and are all proud.
- On the bus ride home, Janice's friend Wilma tells everyone Janice has a date with Willard, and another boy, Billy, says that's a total lie. They have a big fight.
- In Terabithia, Jess and Leslie feel a little bad, but not really. The next day, May Belle knows they defended her, and she's proud – even though it has to stay a secret.

