

TEACHER GUIDE

PART 1 ~ CHAPTER 2

Illuminations

Middle Grade – CH Discussion Questions and Light Lessons

The following questions can also be used as a PREVIEW to reading the chapter, giving the students a guide to look for certain information.

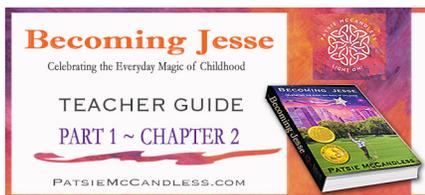
PART 1 Birthday Revelations

CH 2 – Illuminations - General Questions:

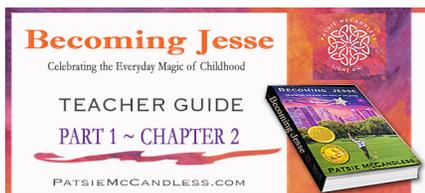
- On the roof and the stairs, what do you think has happened to Billy?
- How does Jesse react in the dark and the lights?
- What does Dearie tell Jesse about the word 'should'?
- What do you make of Grams Maguire?

CH 2 – Illuminations – Detail Questions:

1. Why did Siobhan go looking for the boys? *(She was just checking on them – because of the coming thunder storm.)*
2. How did Dearie figure out where the boys might be? *(She recalled Jesse exclaiming about the fireworks.)*



3. What are the words that describe Jesse's immersion in the thunder and lightning? (*The ferocious wind walloped Jesse from his scalp to his toenails, and cracking thunder ricocheted through his eardrums.*)
4. How was Billy trying to save Jesse? (*He pushed Jesse off the table and flashed his light on the door, yelling – "Get to the door! Jesse!"*)
5. Why did Jesse suddenly feel calm? (*He saw bright, beautiful Lights and felt himself floating there with a deep calm inside him.*)
6. Describe what happened to Billy. (*In the pouring rain, Billy leapt from the table and ran to the door; but he slipped and rocketed into Jesse, barreling them both down the steps; knocking himself unconscious.*)
7. How did Jesse react to the storm, Billy's blackout, and the sparkling Lights? (*Jesse was calm and open and allowing... accepting it all as it occurred.*)
8. How did Jesse feel? (*He was alive to the sensations. He felt a deep love, especially in Billy and through his stuffed rabbit, Velvet; also, curiously, he smelled chocolate.*)
9. Why is this important? (*Jesse was experiencing the other-worldly feeling of intense love from his mother and father – and he understood the Light as something powerful and filled with Love. He was soothed and unafraid.*)
10. How did Gypsy-cat add to Jesse's Lights? (*She jumped into his arms and looked at him with glowing eyes; and she was a 'cup of calm'*)
11. How did the Maguires react? (*Hysterical*) How did Dearie react? (*Calm*)
12. What did Jesse remember about the New Year Bells ringing? (*Birthday Bells*)
13. How did Dearie explain Jesse's Lights? (*Love-Lights*) Jane and chocolate? (*Jesse smelled Jane's love wrapped in her favorite chocolate*)



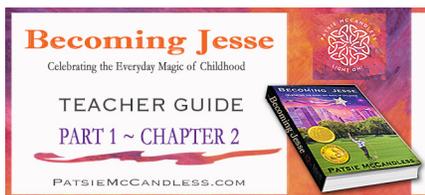
14. What do you learn about Jesse's father, James? (*James loved to sail with Jane; he was a woodworker; built his own Catboat; worked in the lumberyard; during WWII he was stationed at the local Construction Battalion*)
15. What did you learn about Dearie's husband, Galen? (*He gave Dearie her gold locket; he died in WWII*)
16. What are the few things Dearie knows about Jesse's mysterious 'disappeared' grandmother? (*Her name is Jessica; they think she lives on Port Haven Island in New England.*)
17. How does Dearie compare their lives to a weaving loom? (*all connected – woven together as the roots of our Magic*)
18. Next morning, Jesse hears a certain piece of music. What is it? (*He likes to 'conduct' "Eine kleine Nachtmusik"*)

Why is it important to him? (*Jane used to play it every morning*)

Listen to a part of this music: (scroll through youtube choices: Movements 1,2,3,4)

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=eine+kleine+nachtmusik+all+movements+

19. What is unusual about Dearie's kitchen clock? (*Now hours*) What do you think it means? (*each moment is Now – each moment is precious.*)
20. What do you think of Grams Maguire? What does Gypsy-cat think of her? (*pftt's up the stairs away from Grams*) What is her spotlight? (*her white hair*) How does the description of 'cauliflower wrinkles in her face' give you an idea of her age? (*a face like a cauliflower would look very old, indeed*)



21. How does Grams Maguire shock the O'Neil boys? How does Jesse charm her? (*She clicks out her false teeth; Jesse gives her a kiss*)
22. What do you think of Liam Maguire? (*Jolly, wise*)
23. How does Grams Maguire describe Dearie? (*Orchidacious – hoity-toity flower she thinks she is.*)
24. What trick does she play on Jesse? How does Jesse respond? (*She puts vinegar in Jesse's milk. Unknowingly, Jesse hugs her and tells her: "You're the best, Grams!"*)

Chapter 2 ILLUMINATIONS (pp13 – 24):

LIGHT LESSONS & PHRASES

Ch 2/ 18 – “You know how important your words are. Try not to use that word ‘should.’ ‘Should’ is full of bossy judging. You don’t need a ‘should’ to guide you.”

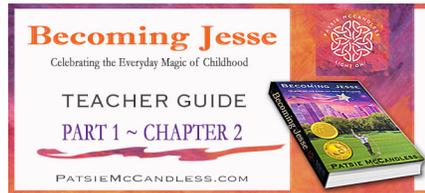
Ch 2/ 18 - “Don’t say ‘should’ at all. Turn your thoughts. Think of your gorgeous Lights. ‘Should’ is not lit up with those Lights, is it? Let your Light guide you.”

Ch 2/ 18 – “Instead of saying ‘should’, try something like, ‘Isn’t it great that we’re safe? I love feeling the love, loving me.’”

Ch 2/ 19 - “So many weavings in our lives. They are the roots of our magic. Who knows what beautiful fabric we shall weave. So fine.”

Ch 2/ 20 – “The morning sun woke with gold in its mouth.”

Ch 2/ 20 – “The kitchen clock had no numerals. It always read NOW for every hour.”



Ch 2/ 21 – “She was a tiny little lady with a great big personality - filled with colors.”

Ch 2/ 21 – “You never know what she will do next. She’s as mad as a box of frogs!”

Ch 2/ 22 – “She was deaf-as-a-doorstop when she wanted to be. She’s got real ‘hearwaxers.’”

Ch 2/ 23 - “Well me boyo, this too shall pass.” - This too? What does that mean? - “It means you are pals. Always will be. You ain’t seen your last adventure.”

Ch 2/ 23 – “Don’t press her. Y can’t get milk if the cow ain’t ready.”

Ch 2/ 24 - “Orchid–da-shus! It’s a real word! Hoity- toity flower!”