

# TEACHER GUIDE

## PART 5 ~ CHAPTER 23

### Spirals

#### 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 5 AUTUMN

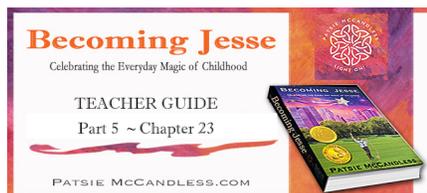
**NOTE:** You may want to give your students an idea of the story of *A Christmas Carol*.

There is a gussied-up Disney version (2009) – with a ‘trailer’ that is short and to the point – perhaps Dearie’s point of how gloomy and frightening it can be. But if your children need a bit of background, this may do the trick:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZ3lr3urgDU>

#### CH 23 SPIRALS

1. P. 218 In the 1950s, they did not have technical equipment for Lighting. How did Jesse’s head wreath light-up? What did Jesse’s giant candle snuffer represent? (BTW, do you know what a candle snuffer is? Disney’s Scrooge uses one in the scene with The Spirit of Christmas Past.)



2. P. 219-224 Dearie’s songs/music are easier to understand if you listen to the original music:

1. Sleigh Ride (John Williams-Boston Pops):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OATi34PKNPw>

2. Lo How a Rose ere Blooming: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3treoG1Eig>

3. Deck The Halls: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o51SlhVnNuM>

4. Christmas in Kilarney: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yvaw\\_UhVYH8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yvaw_UhVYH8)

5. Carol of the Bells: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeMG39AeYyQ>

6. Bartok’s Music for Strings, Percussion, Celesta:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOwLtOomVBI>

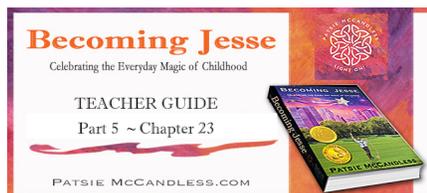
3. P. 220 What do you think it means to be ‘smiling with tears in your eyes’?

4. P. 221 Have you ever seen the lighting of the Rockefeller Christmas Tree and the Channel Garden Angels? (Both are still there – still famous – today.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W5QNIyW0sok>

5. Do you remember where and when Dearie got the idea for Conor’s entrance as the Spirit of Christmas Present? (P. 190 In the Summer, when Mac put up the new rope swing on the Tree of Life in their courtyard, Conor made an impressive entrance, swinging through the air. At the time, Dearie said, “Now that’s an entrance!”)

6. P. 222 Do you know what a **cornucopia** symbolizes? Why does Conor – Spirit of Christmas Present – have a cornucopia? What is special about it? What does the Light reveal?



7. P. 224 The mathematics of **Fibonacci** ( 1200 AD) is fascinating and fun.  
Simple explanation for kids:  
<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/bd/f5/de/bdf5de17ac0a1f963c27fd7131c7f8cf.png>  
TED Talk explanation for Teachers:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjSHVdfXHQ4>
8. P. 224 How does Jesse explain feeling the spirals inside him? (see 224 below)
9. P. 224 What does Conor reply about spirals within human beings – that actually did come true? (see 224 below) (The 1953 discovery of the double spiral helix of our DNA; at Cambridge, by Francis Crick and James Watson: a deep dive video:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vm3od\\_UmFg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1vm3od_UmFg))
10. P. 225 Why does Jesse call Dearie a “ beautiful, Fibonacci Lady Bird”?

### **LIGHT LESSONS & PHRASES - Chapter 23 SPIRALS (218 – 225)**

Ch 23/ 222 - *“Hark! Bring a Light—Into this night— Hurry I say—Show them the way!”*

Ch 23/ 222 - *“Yes! Light the lantern—One candle will turn— hopeless despairing— back to the Light. This is the Light.... Brighten this night....”*

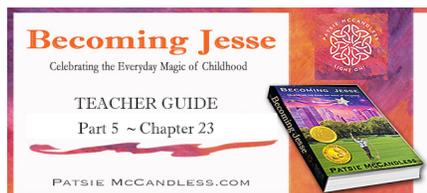
Ch 23/ 223 - “There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor.”

Ch 23/ 224 - “Fibonacci’s equation perfectly imitates the spirals in nature.”

Ch 23/ 224 - *“Sometimes I feel the spiral inside me—like a twirled-up spring, and boing! Wisky-dooley! A light goes on in my head! And I know something new!”*

~ PatsieMcCandless.com ~ *Becoming Jesse* ~ TEACHER GUIDE ~

~ Part 5 Autumn / Chapter 23 Spirals ~



Ch 23/ 224 - "Maybe someday in the future we'll find out that we really are made of spirals all coiled up inside us."