

TEACHER GUIDE

PART 6 ~ CHAPTER 26

Dear Life

Middle Grade – CH Discussion Questions and Light Lessons

PART 6 CIRCLES & SPIRALS

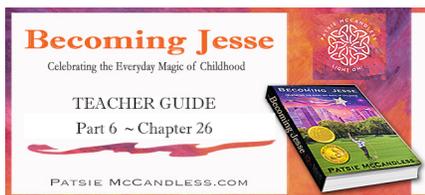
CH 26 DEAR LIFE

NOTE: This is a knotty chapter that deals with death – of a favorite person. Please read it carefully before reading it with your students. Choose what is helpful for the children, emphasizing the ‘glorious’ Lights and feelings of having a dearly beloved one always nearby. Have time for meaningful discussions. The Light Lessons below may be helpful.

1. P. 241-242 After Dearie’s raucous performance on the flywire, she and Conor have a quiet conversation backstage. As she spoke of her feelings, why did Conor suck in his breath? (Note: her talk about the song “Goin’ Home”, plus recalling the fairy dust Lights hovering around Jane when she died, and her feelings of BEING the Great Illuminations are all fore-warnings of precisely what she about to go into.)
2. P. 242 NOTE: Old Barret’s narration of Dearie’s experiences with death in WWI are very important here, to set the stage for death and dying as it feels for those who are left behind. He explains how traumatizing the death of loved ones can be, yet also throws light on how and why Dearie came out of her dark state – *finding a tittle of Light* –

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

~ Part 6 Circles & Spirals / Chapter 26 Dear Life ~



finding her loves once again – because they are still here. There is no separation with death – their spirits are always lovingly, joyfully here – when we, too, are loving and joyful. This will be a profound lesson for Jesse to learn.

3. P. 243 How does Dearie explain ‘death’ to Conor? *“Just like being in this play. Coming and going on a stage. Coming and going in life and death. It’s all the same”.*

4. P. 244 How does Jesse explain “Forever. Like Neverland”? *Dearie, you always say everything lives on. In our heart energies.”*

“Yes. You are right, Jesse.” She grinned. “Really, nothing is ever over and done with. Everything and everyone lives on, just as you say, in our heart energies.”

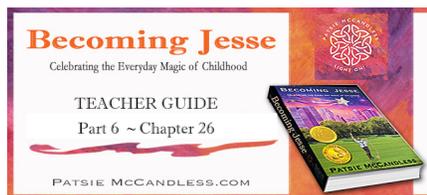
5. P. 244 What is the promise that Dearie and Jesse make to one another? *She reached across the table and squeezed his hand. “Just like you always live in my heart, Jesse.”*

“And Dearie, you always live in my heart.”

She stood up. “Yes! Whenever I see a heart, I know it’s you, Jesse! Like a Valentine. Right there waiting for me!”

Jesse was all smiles, “Me, too!”

6. P. 245-246 How does Jesse see Dearie when she is up on the flywires? How does Gypsy-cat distract Jesse?
7. P. 246 Do you understand what has happened to Dearie? (Probably a heart-attack.) Do you recall how she had held her heart when Conor talked her out of pawning her locket? (P. 187-188)



8. P. 247 Can you tell how Dearie feels as she is dying – going to the Great Illuminations? *(She sees her love-adores: Mam, Da, James, Jane, and finally, her husband, Galen. She says it is 'glorious')*

9. P. 247 How does Jesse see Dearie as she is dying? *(Jesse was motionless. His eyes were filled with a beautiful Light. Glowing. Sparkling. Shining. He stared. And stared. A beautiful expression filling his little face.)*

10. P. 247 What is the word that keeps describing everything Jesse and Conor experience at Dearie's death? *(Blurrings.)* Death of a loved one is difficult to experience. Perhaps you have had such an encounter, or perhaps you lost a pet that you loved. When something big and deep happens to you, do you feel the 'blurrings'? Do you understand why this can happen? (It can help protect your mind and heart and spirit from traumatic shock.)

11. P. 248 Who helps Jesse? (Discuss friendship – deep, connected, supportive, loving, giving, being.)

12. P 248 In Jesse's dream, he talks with Dearie. How does Jesse feel? (Recall the 'pie-shaped shadow' + Dearie rubbing his back after the theater.)

13. P. 248 – 249 How do you know that Jesse suddenly understands that Dearie is 'gone'?

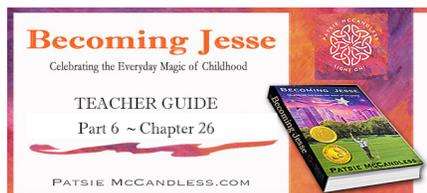
14. P. 249 How does Conor finally calm Jesse?

LIGHT LESSONS & PHRASES - CH 26 DEAR LIFE

239 - "When the world says No, love says Yes".

Chapter 26 DEAR LIFE (241 – 249)

Ch 26/ 242 - "She thought her loves were lost in a dark divide of death. Yet every shared love-moment came back. Inside the Light. In love and laughter."



Ch 26/ 242 – “She came back to the glories of life. Like a conversation with angels. In the endless circle of life.”

Ch 26/ 243 - “Life is always in the Light. Waiting for you...to stand in the Light, too.”

Ch 26/ 243 - “Just like being in this play. Coming and going on a stage. Coming and going in life and death. It’s all the same.”

Ch 26/ 243 – “Follow your dreams and there is no end. It is...glorious. Glorious!”

Ch 26/ 244 - “You always say that a glitch is usually because you’re blocking energy.”

Ch 26/ 244 - “Everything and everyone lives on, in our heart energies.”

Ch 26/ 245 – “His eyes watched her - inside a glittering circle of Light, radiating, spinning, sparkling. He felt himself floating. Floating, sparkling, with her.”

Ch 26/ 246 - “The spotlight followed her, gliding in a bright beam of light.”

Ch 26/ 246 - “He saw a slow spiraling, glittering glow all about her. Hundreds of thousands of tiny, dazzling Lights, hovering about her.”

Ch 26/ 246 - “His eyes were filled with a beautiful Light. Glowing. Shining. He stared. And stared. A beautiful expression filling his face.”

Ch 26/ 248 - “There are things you cannot see. Yet, you know they are here. Like gravity, like the wind. Like love.”

Ch 26/ 248 – “He felt the sweetness of her love wrap around him, like a warm blanket, all around his heart.”