

TEACHER GUIDE

PART 6 ~ CHAPTER 27

Mourning

Middle Grade – CH Discussion Questions and Light Lessons

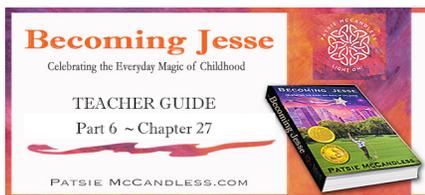
The following questions can also be used as a PREVIEW to reading the chapter, giving the students a guide to look for certain information.

PART 6 CIRCLES & SPIRALS

CH 27 MOURNING

NOTE: This may be a difficult chapter for your students. The Longfellow poem and the Light Lesson words below may help sooth before and after reading.

1. P. 250 Jesse saw and felt everyone crying. How did this make him feel?
2. P. 251 How did Aislinn and Conor comfort one another? (This is an important part of helping a grieving person.)
3. P. 251 What did you think when the Schuyler girls brought cookies to Jesse? What did he like about their visit? Why did he step away from them?
4. Describe Billy – just “being” with Jesse. (Discuss friendship, understanding, quietly supporting.)



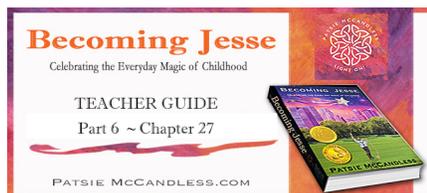
5. P. 252 In Jesse's state, why do you think he wanted to ring the bells for Dearie's Memorial Service in the theater? (Recall CH 20 The Dickens – P. 194 – Why we ring the bells.) Is Jesse wishing for the return of his Magic?
6. P. 253 What is Bobby's proposal to Jesse?
7. P. 253 Conor's reading of James Whitcomb Riley: How does he want to think of Dearie?
8. P. 254 How does Mac speak of Dearie? What does everyone have from Dearie? How does Jesse respond to Mac's words?
9. P. 254-255 What does Marijke find on the way home from Dearie's Memorial Service? Do you remember why this is important? When Old Barret speaks, what does he have to say about Jesse's hearing and feelings?
10. P. 255 What do you learn about Rose? Why do you think this is important? (Jesse hears it and realizes there are so many secrets in life. He is done with secrets. It's almost as if he is done with life – and perhaps his quest. It takes a lot of energy to keep yourself numb from your feelings. Jesse is obviously very tired.)
11. P. 256 Bobby Lewis refers to Longfellow's poem, *Day is Done*. You may want to share a few soothing lines with your students:

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow ~ DAY IS DONE

The day is done, and the darkness - falls from the wings of Night,
As a feather is wafted downward - from an eagle in his flight.

I see the lights of the village - Glean through the rain and the mist,
And a feeling of sadness comes o'er me - That my soul cannot resist:

A feeling of sadness and longing, - That is not akin to pain,
And resembles sorrow only - As the mist resembles the rain.



Come, read to me some poem, - Some simple and heartfelt lay,
That shall soothe this restless feeling, - And banish the thoughts of day.

Not from the grand old masters, - Not from the bards sublime,
Whose distant footsteps echo - Through the corridors of Time.

For, like strains of martial music, - Their mighty thoughts suggest
Life's endless toil and endeavor; - And to-night I long for rest.

Read from some humbler poet, - Whose songs gushed from his heart,
As showers from the clouds of summer, - Or tears from the eyelids start;

Who, through long days of labor, - And nights devoid of ease,
Still heard in his soul the music - Of wonderful melodies.

Such songs have power to quiet - the restless pulse of care,
And come like the benediction - that follows after prayer.

Then read from the treasured volume - the poem of thy choice,
And lend to the rhyme of the poet - the beauty of thy voice.

**And the night shall be filled with music - And the cares, that infest the day,
Shall fold their tents, like the Arabs, - And as silently steal away.**

LIGHT LESSONS & PHRASES - Chapter 27 MOURNING (250 – 256)

Ch 27/ 251 - “She touched his cheek. Patted his heart. Took his hand. Their fingers whispered to each other. And he let her go.”

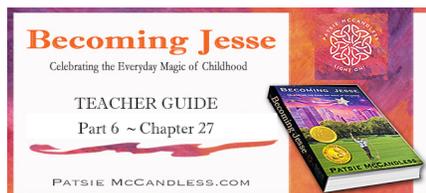
Ch 27/ 251 - “Cookies they had baked just for him... he could smell the sweet aroma. He liked their love-hug, holding him in their little circle.”

Ch 27/ 252 - “They stood. Together. Silently looking out at the city going on about its business, as if the world had not turned into a tangle of upside downs.”

Ch 27/ 252 - “He put his cheek to her little cat body, feeling her heartbeat. He breathed. A real breath. He liked the quiet. Just...being.”

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

~ Part 6 Circles & Spirals / Chapter 27 Mourning ~



Ch 27/ 253 - “He stared at the flowers and said the word over and over in his head. ‘Ranunculus’. A real flower. A real word.”

Ch27/ 253 - “She is just away. She has left us dreaming, while she wandered into an unknown land... And how very fair it must be, since she lingers there.”

Ch 27/ 253 - “Think of her faring on, as dear in the love of There, as the love of Here. Think of her as still the same love.”

Ch 27/ 254 - “How her words and laughter and music lit up our dreams or helped us through a dark time.”

Ch 27/ 254 - “When you have loved a person, and that person has loved you, deeply, so deeply, then there are parts of her that death can’t have, can’t claim.”

Ch 27/ 254 - “That person, that lovely, loving person belongs to you now. Death can’t have all of her.”

Ch 27/ 254 - “All of us bless-ed ones, who have been touched by her, will always have a little piece of her. Inside each of us.”

Ch 27/ 255 - “Coincidences - could be a loved one, reaching out from the Great Illuminations – if you are open to seeing, hearing, feeling.”