

ACTIVITY ONE

UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIPS

"For the first time in his life he [Jess] got up every morning with something to look forward to. Leslie was more than his friend. She was his other, more exciting self – his way to Terabithia and all the worlds beyond."
 -*Bridge to Terabithia*, p. 59

Sometimes seemingly different people form friendships or alliances that balance each other out. One person may have qualities or strengths that the other person lacks, and vice versa. In *Bridge to Terabithia*, Katherine Paterson has created a unique friendship between two unlikely friends.

YOUR TURN

What do you think it means to "balance each other out"? (You may first want to look up the word **balance** in the dictionary before writing your thoughts below.)

PART I. Use the following chart to help you describe and explore reasons for Jess and Leslie's friendship. Write your answers on a clean sheet of paper.

JESS AARONS		LESLIE BURKE
WEAKNESSES	< balanced by >	STRENGTHS
STRENGTHS	< balanced by >	WEAKNESSES

- Where and when did these two first meet?
- What are two significant events that occurred to create this friendship?
- Why do you think Jess and Leslie might be considered *unlikely* friends?
- How do each person's strengths and/or weaknesses help balance this friendship?

PART II. Now try this with another unlikely, *real-life* friendship with which you are familiar.

name:

name:

WEAKNESSES	< balanced by >	STRENGTHS
STRENGTHS	< balanced by >	WEAKNESSES

Use the questions in Part I to consider the unlikely real-life friendship between the two people you have listed.

