

ACTIVITY TWO THE GIANTS IN OUR LIVES

We all know people who seem bigger than life. For Katherine Paterson it was Pansy, the seventh grade bully at her school. Explore the character Janice Avery and discover why she seems bigger than life to Jess and Leslie.

“Leslie liked to make up stories about the giants that threatened the peace of Terabithia, but they both knew that the real giant in their lives was Janice Avery.”
-*Bridge to Terabithia*, p. 61

1 BEFORE READING

Make a prediction about why you think Katherine Paterson describes the character Janice Avery as “the real giant in [Jess and Leslie’s] lives,” and how she might “threaten their peace.”

Make a prediction about how you think Leslie and Jess will deal with Janice Avery.

2 DURING READING

Now read Chapter 5, “The Giant Killers,” to find out how Leslie and Jess dealt with Janice. Summarize how they handled the situation.

3 AFTER READING

How did your prediction compare with what happens in the story? Do you agree or disagree with the way Leslie and Jess handled their problem with Janice Avery? Why?

Who – or what – are the “giants” in your life? What makes them so?

