The Meanings of the Broken Tree, River and Bridge in Katherine Paterson’s 

_Bridge to Terabithia_

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This paper examines the meaning of the broken tree, river, and bridge in Katherine Paterson’s _Bridge to Terabithia_ by using one of the branches of Semiotic literary approach, Symbolism. Starting with Reat’s concept that a tree is a source of life and togetherness, this paper compares the idea of the separation of death symbolized through broken tree whose idea is proposed by Emberson. Furthermore, this paper applies Joseph Panek’s concept that a river can be a boundary or a transendence passage to the world beyond human understanding. Despitefully, this paper also exerts Sanda Bădescu’s concept that a bridge can be a sacramental passage between past and present and a safe connector between two separate places. By understanding above scholar’s framework, this paper concludes that the existence of symbols both in real or literary worlds shapes humans to give thought about a greater existence beyond their own.

Key words: Semiotic and symbols