

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Recommended for Grades 2-4

Book Summary: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Peter, Lucy, Edmund, and Susan are sent to live with their Professor Kirke during World War II. While exploring the house, Lucy crawls into a wardrobe and finds herself in a strange, snowy world. When Lucy returns and tells her siblings what happened, no one believes her because she has only been gone minutes. Later, Edmund follows Lucy in, but instead of finding her he finds the White Witch who gives him enchanted chocolate and convinces him to bring her his siblings.

[SPOILER] The children all end up in Narnia. They decide they must find a way to end the White Witch's spell over Narnia, so they go to find Aslan. Edmund sneaks off to warn the White Witch. She decides she must kill the children. Aslan gives up his life to spare Edmund's. However, he rises from the dead and defeats the White Witch. The children become adults and rule Narnia. Then, one day while hunting, they come back into their regular world and find themselves children again with almost no time having past.

Author Biography: C. S. Lewis

Clive Staples Lewis was born on November 29, 1898, in Belfast, Ireland. His early childhood was happy. His family was fairly well off. He spent much time exploring and playing with his older brother.

Unfortunately, in 1908, his mother died of cancer. A few months later, he and his brother were sent to boarding school in England. He hated this school. In 1910, the school closed and he returned to Ireland. However, he was soon to return to England to attend another boarding school. Fortunately, he enjoyed the experience.

In 1916, he was accepted to University College, the oldest college at Oxford University. Soon after entering school, he chose to volunteer for active duty in World War I. He served in the British Army and spent his time in the trenches in France.

At the end of the war, he returned to his studies and graduated in 1925. He worked as an English teacher at Magdalene College, Oxford. He worked here for 29 years before becoming a professor of literature at Magdalene College, Cambridge.

While teaching, C. S. Lewis was also writing books. His first books focused on his journey with the Christian faith and other religious subjects and were written for adults. Despite his friends warning him that writing a children's novel would ruin his career, C. S. Lewis published The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe in 1950. At first this book was not very popular, but it gained popularity by word of mouth.

In 1956, he married a woman named Joy and became step-father to her two boys. Tragically, she died of cancer in 1960. After her death, C.S. Lewis's own health began to fail. He died on November 22, 1963 (the same day as President Kennedy's assassination).



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Discussion Questions: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

1. In the beginning the children don't believe Lucy when she claims that she has been to Narnia. What does the Professor say? (p.51) He uses logic to support what he says, but does it seem logical? Could you use logic to disprove it?
2. Why does Edmund lie to the others about having been in Narnia and later turn them over to the witch (p.49 & 95)? Did eating the Turkish Delight change something in him, did he always have something inside him that led him to do bad things, or did the way his siblings treated him make him do bad things? Is this true with people? Are some people born to be bad or do things in life make the bad? Why do you think so?
3. Several times it is mentioned that it is always winter but never Christmas. What do you think this means? Why is this important to the story? Does Father Christmas really fit into the story?
4. Do the girl children and the boy children seem to be treated equally? (p.119 & 144) Is this unfair or are there some things that boys are better at and some things that girls are better at?
5. Some are offended that the Queen continues to refer to herself as the queen. Aslan says, "All names will soon be restored to their proper owners." (p.153) Do you think it is important what you call yourself or how you act? Is a person a king just because they claim the title? Or is a person a king based on their actions?
6. What is the importance of the various prophesies mentioned in this story? Do you think that because something is prophesized it will come true? Do you think that you can choose your own actions? Can they both be true?
7. Many people have said that this story is very similar to the story of Jesus' crucifixion told in the Bible. Do you see any similarities between the death of Jesus and the death of Aslan? What other things in the story remind you of the story in the Bible? Why do you think the author did this?
8. Would you want to live to be an adult and then suddenly become a child again? What would be the advantages and disadvantages of both?



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