

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

**The Lion, the Witch
and the Wardrobe**

by C. S. Lewis

written by Kathryn Mitchell

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Notes

Clive Staples Lewis, known commonly as C. S. Lewis, was an author of mixed Irish, English, and Welsh ancestry. Born in Belfast, Ireland, to Albert James Lewis and Flora Augusta Hamilton Lewis on November 29, 1898, he was resident of England throughout his adult life.

When Lewis was four, his dog Jacksie was hit by a car, which caused Lewis to change his name to Jacksie. The name Jacksie eventually evolved into Jack, by which he was known to friends and family for much of his life.

As a boy, Lewis fell in love with Beatrix Potter's stories and began to write and illustrate his own animal stories. His passion for reading was unquenchable, and he possessed a great love of nature as well.

Lewis taught at Magdalen College, Oxford, from 1925 to 1954, after which he became the first Professor of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at the University of Cambridge. *The Chronicles of Narnia*, his most popular works, were published between 1950 and 1956 and are a series of novels for children that describe the adventures of four siblings who visit a magical land called Narnia. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the first and most popular of the series, has been adapted for both stage and screen.

All references come from the HarperTrophy edition of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, copyright 1950.

Note to Teacher

Even though it is an entertaining children's novel, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* can also be interpreted as a Christian Allegory in which Aslan represents Christ. Because it may not be appropriate for every teacher to teach the novel from this perspective, questions regarding this aspect of the novel are given in the essay and discussion section only. This allows you to choose whether to include these questions in your discussion of the book.

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. describe the main characters in the novel: Peter, Susan, Edmund, Lucy, Tumnus, the White Witch, and Aslan.
2. identify the major conflicts in the novel.
3. distinguish between internal and external conflict.
4. identify and distinguish between dynamic and static characters.
5. identify suspense in the novel.
6. understand the concept of a frame story as it applies to the novel.
7. identify foreshadowing in the novel.
8. summarize sections of the novel.
9. paraphrase small passages of the novel.
10. make predictions about future events.
11. make inferences while reading.
12. define first person, third person limited, and third person omniscient points of view.
13. explain how the use of a different point of view might affect the novel.
14. describe how this book can be considered a Christian Allegory.
15. define the following literary terms:
 - conflict
 - foreshadowing
 - frame story
 - allegory
 - point of view
 - theme
 - symbol

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Describe in detail each of the following characters: Peter, Susan, Lucy, Edmund, Tumnus, the White Witch, and Aslan. Be sure to include physical and personality traits, as well as strengths and weaknesses, where appropriate.
2. What do you think is the central conflict in the story? Support your answer with details from the novel. Is the conflict internal or external?
3. How might the story have been different if Edmund had not betrayed his siblings and sided with the White Witch?
4. How might the story be different if Lewis used another point of view? Explain how the story might change if it were told in the first person or third person limited point of view.
5. Is there a hero in the novel? If so, who do you think it is? Explain, and be sure to include your definition of “hero.”
6. In Chapters Thirteen and Fourteen, many clues lead up to Aslan’s death. Give specific examples of how Lewis foreshadows this major event.
7. What is the main theme of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*? Give examples from the text to support your answer.
8. Discuss how the novel may be viewed as allegorical. Include specific references to the characters of Edmund, Aslan, and the White Witch.
9. Describe a major motif in the novel and why it is significant to the story.
10. What is significant about the arrival of Christmas in the story.

The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe

Chapter One

VOCABULARY

blue-bottle – a type of fly that is iridescent blue in color

inquisitive – curious

looking-glass – a mirror

muffler – a scarf

parcels – packages

row – an argument; quarrel

wireless – a radio

1. Why do Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy go to live with the Professor?

2. Describe the Professor.

3. How do the children feel about living with the Professor, and why?

Chapter Six

VOCABULARY

camphor – a fummy substance that comes from the camphor tree and is used medicinally
crookery – pottery
fraternizing – socializing; befriending
harboring – giving refuge to; keeping safe
jove – Jupiter
larder – a pantry
occupant – a tenant; person who lives there
premises – locations; areas
prigs – know-it-alls

1. Once in Narnia, what does Peter immediately say to Lucy?

2. How does Edmund reveal that he has indeed been to Narnia before?

3. The children decide to visit Mr. Tumnus. What do they find when they arrive at his cave?

Chapter Thirteen

VOCABULARY

conduct – manner; way

craves – wants

Hags – witches

is forfeit – belongs

Minotaurs – mythological creatures that were half man and half bull

Ogres – frighteningly ugly giants or monsters

renounced – given up

shriller – more high-pitched

Specters – ghosts

1. What does the White Witch mean when she says, “How if only three were filled? That would not fulfill the prophecy”?

2. The Witch refers mysteriously to the Stone Table. How do her words create suspense?

3. When the Witch says, “Prepare the victim,” about whom is she speaking?

4. What happens before she can execute her plan?

Chapter Seventeen

VOCABULARY

alight – to settle; get down
alliance – a partnership; understanding
ambassadors – representatives or messengers
array – clothing; attire
brood – offspring; children
consorts – friends; companions
cordial – a potion
counsel – suggestion; advice
foreboding – uneasiness
graver – more serious
quarry – a prize
remnants – the parts left over
revelry – a celebration
scepters – the batons held by royalty
stout – fat; bulky
valiant – brave

1. What does Peter tell Aslan about Edmund's actions in battle?

2. How does Lucy contribute to Aslan's army?

3. Describe the brief disagreement between Lucy and Susan.
