

Reflections:

*A Student Response Journal for...*

*The Lion, the Witch,  
and the Wardrobe*

*by C. S. Lewis*

written by Lisa Burris

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## **Chapter 1 – Lucy Looks into a Wardrobe**

1. Because of the air raids, Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy are sent away from their home in London to stay with an old Professor, whom they do not know. How do you think the children feel about leaving London?
2. Susan is older than Lucy and Edmond. At one point she tries to tell Edmund that it is time for him to be in bed. He refuses to obey his older sister and accuses her of acting like his mother.

Describe an experience from your life, or the life of someone you know, when an older sibling tries to behave like a parent to a younger brother or sister. Why do you suppose older siblings sometimes act this way?

3. The professor's house is very large with many long passages and many empty rooms. Peter is delighted with the house, but Lucy is a little bit frightened. How do you think you might feel about living in a large, ancient house like the one described in the book?
4. The children all speculate on what kinds of animals or birds might be on the property. Some critics believe that the choice of animal or bird each child makes also reveals something about the character of the child.

For example, Peter hopes there will be eagles on the grounds. An eagle is a regal bird that suggests to the reader that Peter may have high morals and leadership abilities.

Lucy hopes there are badgers, Edmund wants foxes, and Susan hopes there are rabbits. What do you think these animals might reveal about the personality or character of Lucy, Edmund, and Susan?

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5. In some older houses there are no built-in closets, so bedroom furniture usually includes a large cabinet called a wardrobe for holding clothes. The youngest, Lucy, is the first of the children to enter the wardrobe. Soon she realizes that she is no longer in the wardrobe but in the middle of a wood. If you were Lucy, what do you think you might do in this situation?
  
6. Soon Lucy meets a Faun under the lamppost in the woods. In what ways is the Faun a surprising character?
  
7. To what extent do you find Lucy's adventure in the wardrobe to be believable?

## **Chapter 2 – What Lucy Found There**

8. Mr. Tumnus assumes that Lucy is the Daughter of Eve and that she comes from the country of Spare Oom and the city of War Drobe. Lucy tries to correct him but cannot seem to find the words. Write a dialogue between Lucy and Mr. Tumnus in which she tries to correct his misconceptions. Consider whether or not he has made a mistake when he calls her a Daughter of Eve.

The dialogue might begin as follows:

**Mr. Tumnus:** I was not a very good student in school, so I do not remember a country called Spare Oom. No matter.

**Lucy:** Spare Room, is it not a country. It ...

9. Lucy agrees to go with Mr. Tumnus to his home. Today children are taught not to talk to strangers and certainly not to accompany them anywhere. If you were Lucy's mother, what would you say to her about her decision to go with Mr. Tumnus? Use incidents from your own life, or incidents that you have heard or read about, to support your ideas.
10. Lucy notices the titles of the books in Mr. Tumnus' home. What do these titles reveal to the reader about Mr. Tumnus? If a stranger were to come to your home, what book titles might he or she notice? What do you think these titles reveal about your family?

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11. After he was finished eating, Mr. Tumnus tells Lucy about many different creatures that live in Narnia. These creatures are familiar to us because they are from our own stories and legends. For example, Mr. Tumnus is a faun, a term for a mythological creature who is a woodland deity, man and goat, satyr, or fairy. The leader of the satyrs is a fat, jolly man with pointed ears called Silenus. Nymphs and dryads are also fairies. Dwarfs, from folklore, are little gnome-like creatures who may have magical powers. Bacchus is the Roman god of wine and merrymaking.

Select a creature that you know from a legend or a myth. Assume that this creature also lives in Narnia. Write the description of the creature you select as Mr. Tumnus might describe the creature to Lucy.

12. An allegory is a story that represents abstract ideas or moral qualities. As such, an allegory has both a literal level and a symbolic level of meaning. Many critics believe this story is an allegory. Literally, Lucy is in Narnia talking to a faun. Symbolically, this story is a Christian allegory that teaches the principles of Christianity.

Consider Mr. Tumnus' behavior in this chapter. He lures Lucy to his cave, and then he confesses to her that he is working for the White Witch. Why do you think he does this? What Christian idea is he illustrating by his behavior?

Write a dialogue between two students who are discussing these ideas. The first student is explaining to the second student, who does not understand, that Mr. Tumnus' behavior illustrates a Christian idea.

The dialogue might begin as follows:

**First Student:** Wow, this isn't just a children's story. It is a story that teaches children about Christian values.

**Second Student:** Nonsense. It is just a fairy tale with talking animals.

**First Student:** You need to look deeper. Mr. Tumnus *confesses* to Lucy. This shows that ....

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13. Mr. Tumnus pretends to be Lucy's friend, but all the time he plans to betray her. Do you have any experience with betrayal? Write about an incident from life, the movies, or a book in which one person betrays another.
14. Despite his betrayal, Lucy seems to feel sorry for Mr. Tumnus. He tells her that the White Witch will turn him to stone if he does not follow through with the kidnapping. Lucy says to him:  
"I'm very sorry, Mr. Tumnus," said Lucy. "But please let me go home."  
  
Lucy is very kind and understanding; however, she asks to go home despite the danger to Mr. Tumnus. How would you have handled this kind of betrayal?
15. Mr. Tumnus escorts Lucy back to the lamp post. Then he asks her if he can keep her handkerchief. Why do you suppose he does this?