



The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe



For the novel by
C. S. Lewis

Study Guide by Andrew Clausen



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Synopsis

Four children, Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy, are sent to stay at the country home of an old professor. While exploring the old house, Lucy steps into a magic wardrobe which transports her to the land of Narnia. There she meets a Faun named Tumnus who tells her how the White Witch has used her magic to make it always winter in Narnia. She returns to tell the rest of the children about Narnia, but when they check out her story, the magic wardrobe appears to be normal.

Later, while hiding from the housekeeper, all four children enter the wardrobe and find themselves in Narnia. There they learn that the White Witch has arrested Tumnus because of his kindness to Lucy. They also learn that the Witch seeks to capture the four children, whose presence in Narnia, according to an old Narnian prophecy, signals an end to her reign.

While the Witch races to capture the children, the children hurry to meet Aslan, the rightful ruler of Narnia. Aslan has returned to release Narnia from the Witch's magical winter. Though Aslan's victory seems certain, the Witch has a few tricks up her sleeve. The price of saving Narnia from total destruction is beyond what the children can imagine.

Chapters 5 & 6

Vocabulary:

A word is *in context* if we see it in the sentence where it was written. It is *out of context* when it is by itself. The following underlined words are shown in the context of the sentence from the book where they appear. See if you can figure out from reading the sentence what the underlined words mean, then write the meaning from the dictionary.

1. Up to that moment Edmund had been feeling sick, and sulky, and annoyed with Lucy for being right.

Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

2. Edmund gave a very superior look as if he were far older than Lucy.

Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

3. “But it’s all nonsense,” said Edmund, very taken aback.

Your definition:

Dictionary definition:

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3. What reasons does the Professor give that suggest Lucy might be telling the truth?
4. How does Edmund accidentally let slip that he's been to Narnia before?

Thinking About the Story:

5. When all the children get into Narnia through the wardrobe, the first thing Peter does is apologize to Lucy. Does Edmund take the opportunity to apologize? Why not?
6. Read Matthew 5:23, 24. How important does Jesus say it is to apologize?
7. How did the Witch know that Mr. Tumnus was fraternizing with Humans?

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8. Edmund wonders how they know which side is the *right* side. Which side do you think is the right side? How do you know?

9. *Foreshadowing* is a clue or a hint that the author gives about something that is to happen later in the story. When Lucy spots the robin, she says it's the first bird she's seen in Narnia. What does it sometimes mean to us to see a robin? What might a robin in Narnia foreshadow?

Dig Deeper:

10. When Edmund denies having been to Narnia, Lewis calls this “one of the nastiest things in the story.” Why was that so nasty?

11. Read Matthew 26: 69–74. How is the apostle Peter's behavior in this passage similar to Edmund's behavior?

12. We can deny something or someone by our actions as well as words. Have you ever felt like you have denied someone you loved? How did it make them feel?

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Logic Exercise:

Logic is a system by which we arrive at our conclusions through reasoning. For example, if we are told that an Alsatian is a breed of dog, and we know that all dogs have four legs, we can conclude that an Alsatian has four legs. That's using logic!

Write "true" or "false" for each of the following statements by using logic to come to your conclusion.

1. Lucy tells a story about Narnia that is very hard to believe. Lucy does not tell lies. Therefore, the story must be true. _____
2. The wardrobe in the Professor's house is a magic wardrobe. The wardrobe is a magic door to Narnia. Therefore, all wardrobes must be magic doors that lead to other countries. _____
3. Robins are a sign of spring. Lucy sees a robin in Narnia. Therefore, spring must be coming to Narnia. _____
4. Edmund is older than Lucy. Lucy is the youngest girl. Therefore, Edmund must be the oldest boy. _____
5. Tumnus is a Faun. All Fauns have tails. Therefore, Tumnus must have a tail. _____
6. Tumnus lives in a cave. Tumnus keeps his cave neat and tidy. Therefore, people who live in caves must be neat and tidy. _____

Optional Writing Project:

The children discover that Mr. Tumnus has been arrested. However, C.S. Lewis never wrote a scene in which this happens. Imagine you are the author of this book. Write a short scene about what happens when the Witch's secret police come to arrest Mr. Tumnus.

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Chapters 11 & 12

Vocabulary:

vermin: any of various small animals or insects that are destructive or annoying.

gluttony: state of being greedy or eating too much.

indulgence: the act of being lenient.

glades: open spaces in a forest.

pavilion: a tent, or tent-like structure.

rampant: in profile, on the hind legs with forepaws outstretched menacingly.

standard: a flag or banner.

Questions:

1. The Witch gives him dry bread and water.
2. Edmund saw the truth, that the Witch was really mean and cruel.
3. The Witch turns to stone the animals who are having a party.
4. Accept reasonable responses.
5. Accept reasonable responses. Peter felt that his anger helped Edmund go wrong.
6. Aslan said nothing. He agreed with Peter that Peter's anger was wrong. Accept reasonable responses.
7. Answers will vary.
8. God will always be with you.

Chapters 13 & 14

Vocabulary:

1. argue; 2. piercing; 3. surrendered; 4. be destroyed; 5. given up; 6. whisper; 7. blockade; 8. military action; 9. mob; 10. satisfied.

Questions:

1. The Witch wanted Edmund dead so that the four thrones would not be filled and the prophecy about her defeat would go unfulfilled.
2. Narnia would be destroyed.
3. Accept reasonable responses. It was foolish to question Aslan's word. Aslan, because of who he is, would not break a promise.
4. Accept reasonable responses. The monsters knew Aslan could kill them if he wanted.
5. Accept reasonable responses. Edmund knew that his only hope for salvation lay with Aslan. He had placed his trust in Aslan.
6. Accept reasonable responses. We should keep reminding ourselves that God is in control of every situation, that He is our only hope, and that He will give us strength.

Chapters 15, 16 & 17

Vocabulary:

Dictionary definitions: 1. making a shrill musical sound; 2. hateful, disgusting; 3. a spiny shrub with yellow flowers; 4. parapets on the top of a wall with indentations for defense or decoration; 5. impressive, enormous, marvelous; 6. (liberated) set free; (surged) moved in a billowing or swelling manner; 7. loud, confused, prolonged noise; 8. unrestrained celebration; 9. warning, premonition.

Questions:

1. The Witch did not know that if an innocent victim was killed in the place of a traitor, death itself would start working backwards.
2. The children had grown accustomed to speaking like rulers.
3. They saw the lamp-post.
4. They wanted to explain why four coats were missing from the wardrobe.
5. The Professor said that others who had been to Narnia might be told by odd things they say, or even their looks.
6. Accept reasonable responses.
7. The lion was pleased because Aslan referred to "Us lions," identifying himself with the other lion and showing unity with him. Accept reasonable responses. The lion felt pleased, extremely happy, important, special, etc.