



# The Voyage of the Dawn Treader Study Guide



For the novel by  
C. S. Lewis

by Carol Clark



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## Synopsis

Lucy and Edmund are swept into Narnia again, and, along with their unwilling cousin Eustace, join King Caspian in his search for the seven lords of Narnia who were banished by Caspian's evil uncle, King Miraz. Caspian's journey takes the crew of the *Dawn Treader* to unknown islands in the Eastern Seas, where they encounter magic, adventure, invisible enemies, and peril. Each discovery leads them further toward Aslan, who will help if they seek him. The quest takes the *Dawn Treader* to the very eastern edge of the world, where one crew member must be left in order to save three of the lords. But, who will stay?

**Note:** Because *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* is the fourth book in *The Chronicles of Narnia* series, we strongly suggest that you read the first three books either before or soon after reading this book. It is not strictly necessary, but it will make many things clearer and will heighten the reader's enjoyment of this novel.

## Chapters 3 and 4

### Vocabulary:

A *synonym* is a word with a similar meaning to a different word. For example, instead of using the word *good*, a writer might use a synonym such as *excellent*, *admirable*, or *splendid* to give a more precise meaning to the sentence. A thesaurus, a book similar to a dictionary, is a good source for synonyms. Using a thesaurus or dictionary, match the vocabulary words in the Word Bank to their synonyms.

*Word Bank*

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abominable	bedraggled	civilized	dandified
dominion	forfeit	infuriated	jabber
carrion	rigmarole	fief	bilious
languid	pitching	regent	tribute

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1. \_\_\_\_\_ rumpled, untidy, disheveled
2. \_\_\_\_\_ enraged, angered, incensed
3. \_\_\_\_\_ tithe, toll, dues, payment
4. \_\_\_\_\_ rolling, lurching, unsteady
5. \_\_\_\_\_ talk, gab, chatter
6. \_\_\_\_\_ well-mannered, polite, courteous
7. \_\_\_\_\_ hateful, detestable, despicable, horrible
8. \_\_\_\_\_ territory, jurisdiction, domain
9. \_\_\_\_\_ penalty, relinquish, lose
10. \_\_\_\_\_ listless, sluggish, leisurely

### Thinking About the Story:

6. An *idiom* is an expression that does not literally mean what the words say, but has an accepted or understood meaning. For example, if we say someone has ants in his pants, we do not mean that he has insects crawling inside his clothing. We understand this expression to mean that the person is having a hard time sitting still or is agitated.

Gumpas and his men often use idioms. Their speech emphasizes the local flavor of the island, setting them apart from the more formal speech of Caspian and the *Dawn Treader* crew. Study the underlined idioms in the following sentences and paraphrase what the sayings mean as they are used in the sentence.

- a. “The mouse is a fair treat but this one would talk the hind leg off a donkey.”
- b. “You make very free,” said the other. “How shall I know this is true?”
- c. “By heaven,” exclaimed the man, “it is his father’s very voice and trick of speech.”
- d. “Gumpas is a chicken-hearted man, and can be over-awed.”
7. *Juxtaposition* is the act of placing two things side by side for comparison or contrast. An author uses juxtaposition to underscore the distinctive characteristics of two people, things, happenings, or places. The author describes Caspian’s men and their armor as they enter the village. When they reach the castle gate, they find Gumpas’ men in quite a different condition. Reread the description of

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these two groups and list the ways in which they differ. What characteristics does this juxtaposition reveal about Gumpas' men and Caspian's soldiers?

Caspian's Men

Gumpas's Men

8. Lord Bern states that Gumpas "would not be best pleased to find a real, live King of Narnia coming in upon him." Why? What reception *does* Caspian receive from Governor Gumpas? What is Caspian's solution to the situation here on Felimath?
9. What does Lord Bern request of Caspian? What two reasons does Caspian give for continuing the voyage of the *Dawn Treader*? What does this tell us about Caspian's inner character?

**Dig Deeper:**

10. Caspian offers forgiveness to three people, but in each case he imposes a consequence for their actions. Complete the lines below for each person.

*Captain:* Pardoned for: \_\_\_\_\_

Consequence: \_\_\_\_\_

*Gumpas:* Pardoned for: \_\_\_\_\_

Consequence: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Pug*: Pardoned for: \_\_\_\_\_

Consequence: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Caspian was a wise ruler who forgave people. Read Colossians 3:12–14. To *paraphrase* something is to restate it with plain words, usually more briefly, to help clarify the meaning. Paraphrase these verses in your own words.
  
12. When Caspian decided to walk across Felimath, everything went wrong. Sometimes, no matter what we do, things will go wrong, but most of the time, we can try to make wise decisions. Read Proverbs 14:22, Proverbs 20:18a, Proverbs 3:5–6, and Proverbs 19:20. What are some ways to make wise decisions?

**Optional Activities:**

1. Explain how the above verses might have changed Pug’s treatment of slaves, had he heeded these scriptures. Write a well-organized paragraph with an introduction, explanation, and conclusion. The beginning sentence(s) should state the main idea you wish to convey. The middle sentences could give examples of Pug’s possible behavior changes. The ending should summarize the changes, draw a conclusion, or restate the main idea of your paragraph.
2. *Creative writing*: Write a 1- to 3-page story telling how life became different with Lord Bern in charge of Felimath and slavery no longer permitted.
3. *Math connection*: Upon learning that Reepicheep could talk, the slave merchant said, “Blowed if I take less than 200 crescents for him.” The author explains that the crescent is one-third of a pound.

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### *Dig Deeper:*

9. These verses teach us that God is with us, he is our stronghold, even in danger or under attack we can be without fear and have confidence. God will keep us safe. We should be faithful, on guard, courageous, loving, and strong. Trust God. He is our strength, our rock, fortress, deliverer, refuge, stronghold, and salvation. Nothing at all can separate us from the love of God.

10. God promises that nothing at all can separate us from his love. He also reminds us that he has given us the Holy Spirit to teach us and guide us; and he has given us his peace.

### *Chapters 15 and 16*

#### *Vocabulary:*

1. c; 2. a; 3. d; 4. c; 5. c; 6. b; 7. a; 8. b; 9. d; 10. a

#### *Questions:*

1. The children need less sleep; they do not want to go to bed or to eat; they talk in low voices; the sun appears twice its size; the water becomes clear, and eventually sweet. Once they drink the water, they are no longer hungry and can bear the increasing light.

2. Reepicheep interprets the Sea King's shaking his spear as a challenge and intends to settle it. It is a matter of honor to him.

3. He discovers the water is sweet-tasting, not salt. The Dryad had prophesied that the end of the world would begin where the water was sweet.

4. Answers will vary. Reepicheep's lifelong quest has been to find Aslan's country in the utter East. The prophecy (in Chapter 15): "Where the waves grow sweet, doubt not, Reepicheep, there is the utter East." The prophecy (in Chapter 2) "Where the sky and water meet, where the waves grow sweet, doubt not, Reepicheep, to find all you seek, there is the utter East."

5. Caspian decides he will stay at the end of the world with Reepicheep. Rynelf reminds him that if a crew member made the same decision, Caspian would consider it desertion. Reepicheep says he will break faith with his subjects if he does not return to Narnia. He also reminds Caspian that he is royalty, and may not choose adventure as if he were an ordinary citizen. He has a leadership responsibility to his people. Lucy reminds Caspian that he had almost promised Ramandu's daughter that he would return.

6. Aslan appears to him in his cabin and speaks to him sternly. He finds out that he must leave not only Reepicheep, but Edmund, Lucy, and Eustace, at the world's end, and he must leave at once.

#### *Thinking About the Story:*

7. Answers will vary. Ulysses was drawn to the song of the Sirens, much as Caspian was drawn to Aslan's kingdom at the end of the world. Ulysses' crew bound him to the ship so he could not be drawn off course. Reepicheep threatened to bind Caspian to the ship so that he would not be drawn off the course of his plan to return to Narnia.

8. Answers will vary. Caspian realizes that everyone is right about Caspian not being able to ignore his responsibilities and stay at the world's end. He may be jealous that Reepicheep is supposed to stay, and agrees to the "lesson" or reasons he cannot stay, but feels teased or "baited" by Reepicheep reminding Caspian that not all will return.

9. Aunt Alberta feels Eustace has become too ordinary, commonplace, and tiresome by his association with the Pevensies. What changed him was his meeting with Aslan and his continued relationship with him.

### *Dig Deeper:*

10. The children are fed by Aslan as Peter is fed by Jesus, who acts as a servant. Peter recognized Jesus before they were fed, the children recognize Aslan when he turns back into a lion.

11. These verses confirm that faith in Jesus is the one and only way to God and salvation.

12. Answers will vary. They are supposed to seek him and learn to know him by another name. They have spent time with Aslan and gotten to know him so they can recognize his character, his laws, his sacrifice, his righteousness, his actions, and his love in their own world.

#### *Optional Bible Study:*

13. John 1:29—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world; John 6:35—the Bread of Life; John 7:41—the Christ; John 14:6—the Way, the Truth, and the Life; John 15:1—the Vine; Rev. 5:5—the Lion of Judah, the Root of David; Rev. 17:14—King of Kings and Lord of Lords.