



Prince Caspian

Study Guide

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For the novel by
C. S. Lewis



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Table of Contents

Study Guide Author	3
Peer Review Panel	4
Note to Instructor	6
A Note on the Reading Order of <i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i>	7
Synopsis	10
About the Author	12
Suggestions for Pre-reading Activities	13
Chapters 1 & 2	14
Chapters 3–5	20
Chapters 6–8	30
Chapters 9–11	39
Chapters 12 & 13	46
Chapters 14 & 15	52
Overview	57
Suggestions for Final Projects	61
Related Resources	63
Answer Key	65

Synopsis

It is the end of the holidays, and Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy are heading back to school. As they wait at a railway station for their trains, Lucy feels an odd sensation, as if someone were pulling or dragging her somewhere. Soon the other children feel it, too. Almost before they realize what's happening, they find themselves standing in a strange wood.

The four children explore their surroundings and discover that they are on an island. They also discover the ruins of Cair Paravel, the castle where they had reigned as kings and queens in Narnia. As they puzzle over the apparent passage of years in Narnia, a boat approaches the island. Two soldiers have come down to the sea to drown their prisoner—a Dwarf. The children drive away the soldiers and rescue the Dwarf who tells them the story of Prince Caspian.

Caspian is a Telmarine and nephew and heir to King Miraz. But when Miraz has a son and heir of his own, he seeks Caspian's death. Caspian flees into the wilderness where he encounters a pair of Dwarfs and a talking Badger—creatures who inhabited Narnia before Narnia was conquered by the Telmarines. There are many of the Old Narnians living in hiding, but with Caspian on their side, they seek to overthrow Miraz and drive the Telmarines from Narnia.

Caspian gathers an army of Old Narnians, but Miraz learns of their plans and sends his own armies to search for them. When Caspian's army suffers a series of setbacks, Caspian decides to blow the Horn of Queen Susan which he believes will bring help—possibly in the form of Aslan, the Great Lion, himself.

Trumpkin, the Dwarf, concludes his story, explaining that he has been sent by Caspian to Cair Paravel to see if any help has arrived, and he is dismayed to discover the four children instead. Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy quickly convince Trumpkin that they were once kings and queens in Narnia, and that the Horn has apparently called them back to Narnia to help Caspian.

The children and the Dwarf undertake a journey through the wilderness to meet Caspian and his army and lend their help. But the land has changed since they were rulers in Narnia, and the journey is difficult. Then Lucy claims to have seen

Prince Caspian Study Guide

Aslan. Could it be that the Great Lion, himself, has returned to lead the Old Narnians to victory? The other children are unsure, and Trumpkin will not believe in stories about magical Lions. Their doubt and disbelief nearly cause disaster when the children encounter one of Miraz's outposts. Only by taking a step of faith do the children find their way to Caspian.

But Caspian and the Old Narnians aren't out of danger yet. One of their own party has a dark plan for defeating Miraz. Only the return of the Lion will set things right again.

Prince Caspian Study Guide

8. “See what a pack of nursery tales our jackanapes of a nephew has sent us.”

Definition:

Sentence:

9. “. . . you are as lily-livered as hares yourselves and have the effrontery to imagine my heart after the likeness of yours!”

Definition:

Sentence:

Part Two:

A *synonym* is a word that means the same or nearly the same as another word. Write down two synonyms for each of the words listed below.

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. tyrant | _____ | _____ |
| 2. gaunt | _____ | _____ |
| 3. parley | _____ | _____ |
| 4. fell (adjective) | _____ | _____ |
| 5. dastard | _____ | _____ |
| 6. lily-livered | _____ | _____ |

Prince Caspian Study Guide

Questions:

1. Who are Nikabrik's two "friends"? What is Nikabrik's solution to turning their defeats into victory?
2. What is Peter's plan for defeating King Miraz? Why does he choose this course of action? What does this tell us about Peter?
3. What do Lords Glozelle and Sopespian say about Edmund when they see him approaching with Peter's letter?

Thinking About the Story:

4. *Irony* is a difference between an expected outcome and the actual outcome. When this difference is highlighted for effect, we say that the situation is *ironic* or demonstrates *irony*. In drama, irony may also refer to knowledge held by the readers or audience but unknown to the characters.

Trufflehunter tells those gathered in Aslan's How: "I stand by Aslan. Have patience, like us beasts. The help will come. It may be even now at the door." What is ironic about this statement?

Prince Caspian Study Guide

5. The author describes the Hag as having “a thin, whining voice,” and the Werewolf as having a “dull, gray voice.” Imagine how the voice of Aslan sounds. Describe it.

6. Why do Glozelle and Sopespian want King Miraz to accept Peter’s challenge? How do they encourage him to accept the challenge? How does Miraz respond?

Dig Deeper:

7. Nikabrik argues that the White Witch is a greater power than Aslan because she killed Aslan, and he refutes the idea that Aslan came back to life:

. . . you’ll notice that we hear precious little about anything [Aslan] did afterward. He just fades out of the story. How do you explain that, if he really came to life? Isn’t it much more likely that he didn’t, and that the stories say nothing more about him because there was nothing more to say?

Using a similar argument, some people deny the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Read Matthew 28:11–15. What was the plan of the chief priests and elders to refute the resurrection of Jesus?

Prince Caspian Study Guide

Thinking About the Story

7. The Black Dwarfs' support for Caspian is conditional: "If he is against Miraz, we'll have him for King." They also suggest bringing Ogres and Hags—evil creatures—into their battle against Miraz. It takes a bit of convincing until the Red Dwarfs accept Caspian as a friend, but after they are convinced, they cry "Long live the King," and present him with gifts of armor and swords of very fine make.

8. Nikabrik reflects the attitude of the Black Dwarfs, saying "I'll believe in anyone or anything . . . that'll batter these cursed Telmarine barbarians to pieces or drive them out of Narnia. Anyone or anything, Aslan *or* the White Witch, do you understand?" He is more interested in overthrowing Miraz than he is in supporting Caspian. On the other hand, Trumpkin may not believe in Aslan, but he is supportive of Caspian, and he is strongly against Nikabrik's suggestion of bringing evil creatures like Hags and Ogres into the battle. He wants to rid the land of the Telmarines, but he doesn't want to use evil means to do so.

9. Until the meeting with Glenstorm, they had not considered waging a war against Miraz. They had only been considering the formation of an Old Narnia while still remaining in hiding. Glenstorm suggests that the time is ripe for a real war to drive out Miraz and the Telmarines from Narnia. Caspian and the others agree.

10. Trumpkin didn't want to raise their hopes only to have them all be disappointed when no help came. Answers will vary.

Dig Deeper:

11. Lucy responds "But we want to be here, don't we, . . . if Aslan wants us?" Lucy means that they *should* want to do whatever Aslan asks of them, *whenever* he asks, even if it is a bit uncomfortable.

12. Answers will vary.

13. These verses warn against hardening our hearts and turning away from God. We are told that such people will never enter God's rest. These verses encourage us to "encourage one another daily," and to hold firmly to the confidence we have in Christ.

14. Answers will vary.

15. Responses will vary.

Character Study:

16. Trumpkin often uses an exclamation that consists of a pair of words that begin with the same sound. So far in the novel we have heard him say "Beards and bedsteads!" "Horns and halibuts!" "Bulbs and bolsters!" "Whistles and whirligigs!" "Soup and celery!" "Thimbles and thunderstorms!" and "Giants and junipers!"

Chapters 9–11

Vocabulary:

1. ferns; 2. encampment; 3. wrinkled; 4. cliff; 5. reddish; 6. boring; 7. tune; 8. defaming; 9. timid; 10. grumbling; 11. foxes

Similes and Metaphors:

1. S; 2. M; 3. S; 4. M; 5. S; 6. S; 7. S; 8. M; 9. M; 10. S

Questions:

1. Lucy hears the rustling of leaves in the trees when there is no wind. She thinks they sound like words that she can almost understand.

2. The Rush has changed over time, gradually turning the stream valley into a deep gorge.

3. Lucy claims that she sees Aslan on their side of the river, but higher up. She says that he wants them to go south, up the river instead of northward and down the river toward Beruna.

4. None of the others believe that Lucy saw Aslan. Trumpkin says that Lucy might have seen a wild lion, and if it had been Aslan, he would be "a pretty elderly lion by now." Susan is anxious to get out of the woods. She and Trumpkin both believe they should continue downriver. Edmund recalls that no one would believe Lucy when she first discovered Narnia through the wardrobe, and that he "was the worst of the lot." He decides to believe Lucy. Peter is unsure. He eventually decides that they must continue down the river even while he admits that Lucy might be right.

5. As they near Beruna, they are suddenly attacked. They must crawl back over ground they'd already traveled.

Thinking About the Story: