

[Sample]

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (1950)

by C. S. Lewis (1898-1963)

Young Reader's Guide with Writing Activities and Quiz
Questions

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Note to Parents

In its complete form (this is only a small sample), this guide contains concise summaries of all the most important aspects of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*: plot, characters, themes and context. It is used to enrich and consolidate students' knowledge of the text during the course.

You will get the best value out of this guide if you print it out in booklet form so that your child can refer to it easily in class.

This guide is not, of course, a substitute for reading the novel itself. In the full course, chapters will be set for reading between classes. Before the taster lesson, it would be good if your child could read the first two chapters of the novel. They can do this either by reading on their own, by listening to you read the novel, or by listening to an audiobook. I recommend the unabridged audiobook read by Michael York, which you can find on Audible here:

<https://www.audible.co.uk/pd/The-Lion-the-Witch-and-the-Wardrobe-The-Chronicles-of-Narnia-Audiobook/B004EEZ270> (UK)

<https://www.audible.com/pd/The-Lion-the-Witch-and-the-Wardrobe-Audiobook/B002V1NHJ2> (USA)

There are writing activities and quiz questions at the back of the guide which will be used at regular intervals during the course. You could also use the quiz questions with your child if you wish to help them review and embed their knowledge more securely.

Plot Summary

Chapter One: Lucy Looks into a Wardrobe

Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy Pevensie are evacuated from London to the large country house of Professor Kirke. While exploring the house, Lucy discovers a magical wardrobe which leads into a snow-covered wood.

Chapter Two: What Lucy Found There

In the wood, Lucy meets a faun called Mr Tumnus, who shelters and feeds her, before admitting that he had been planning to betray her to the evil ruler of Narnia, the White Witch, who has made it always winter and never Christmas. He repents of his planned treachery and leads her safely home.

Context

World War Two

The novel is set early in World War Two (1939-1945), during the Blitz, when the German air force was doing terrible damage to British cities. Many children were evacuated from major cities such as London, and went to live with host families in the countryside, while their parents remained in the city.

Main Characters

Mr Tumnus

Mr Tumnus is a faun (half man, half goat). He is the first creature Lucy meets when she enters Narnia. She learns from him of the evil White Witch. Mr Tumnus shows great courage when he decides not to hand Lucy over to the Witch.

Writing Activities

Chapter One: Lucy Looks into a Wardrobe

Extract: Introducing the Four Pevensie Children

The four Pevensie children have just arrived at Professor Kirke's house and are talking over the situation.

As soon as they had said good night to the Professor and gone upstairs on the first night, the boys came into the girls' room and they all talked it over.

"We've fallen on our feet and no mistake," said Peter. "This is going to be perfectly splendid. That old chap will let us do anything we like."

"I think he's an old dear," said Susan.

"Oh, come off it!" said Edmund, who was tired and pretending not to be tired, which always made him bad-tempered. "Don't go on talking like that."

"Like what?" said Susan; "and anyway, **it's time you were in bed.**"

"Trying to talk like Mother," said Edmund. "And who are you to say when I'm to go to bed? Go to bed yourself."

"Hadn't we all better go to bed?" said Lucy. "There's sure to be a row if we're heard talking here."

"**No there won't,**" said Peter. "I tell you this is the sort of house where no one's going to mind what we do. Anyway, they won't hear us. It's about ten minutes' walk from here down to that dining room, and any amount of stairs and passages in between."

"**What's that noise?**" said Lucy suddenly. It was a far larger house than she had ever been in before and the thought of all those long passages and rows of doors leading into empty rooms was beginning to **make her feel a little creepy.**

"**It's only a bird, silly,**" said Edmund.

"It's an owl," said Peter. "This is going to be a wonderful place for birds. I shall go to bed now. I say, let's go and explore to-morrow. You might find anything in a place like this. Did

you see those mountains as we came along? And the woods? There might be eagles. There might be stags. There'll be hawks."

"Badgers!" said Lucy.

"Snakes!" said Edmund.

"Foxes!" said Susan.

But when next morning came, there was a steady rain falling, so thick that when you looked out of the window you could see neither the mountains nor the woods nor even the stream in the garden.

"Of course it would be raining!" said Edmund.

Starting Sentence	Vocabulary
In the novel's opening scene, Lewis gives many clues about the characters of the Pevensie children.	leader, mature, spiteful, bossy, considerate

Quiz Questions

Plot

1. **Chapter One: L L into a W**
2. Why are the Pevensie children living at Professor Kirke's house?
3. What does Lucy find through the wardrobe?
4. **Chapter Two: W L F T**
5. What did Mr Tumnus the faun plan to do?
6. What does he do in the end?

Context

1. What was happening to London at the time the novel is set?

Image of a lion from [Wikimedia Commons](#). Author: Clément Bardot