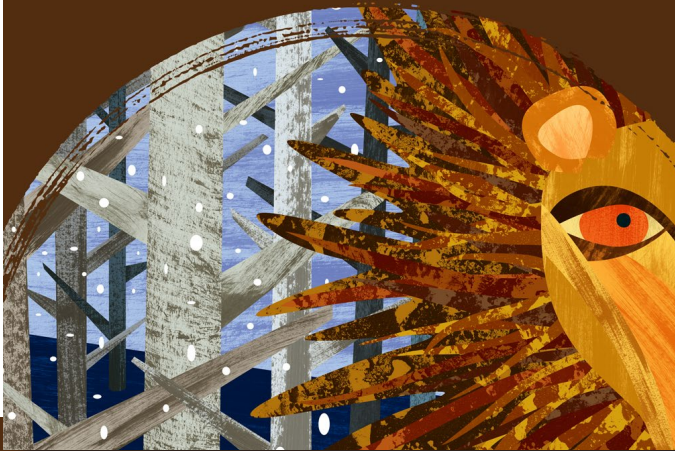


THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE



A Cardinal for Kids Study Guide with Monroe County Public Library

Journey to Narnia in the imaginative re-telling by playwright le Clanché du Rand of C.S. Lewis's beloved classic. Siblings Peter, Susan, Lucy, and Edmund Pevensie step through a magical wardrobe and come face to face with Mr. Tumnus, the White Witch, and Aslan the Great Lion. Cheer them on as they courageously battle to save the wondrous kingdom of Narnia!

Who are the characters in the play?

There are four actors in this play, which is based on the book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, written by C. S. Lewis. Each actor portrays two different characters.

- **Peter**, age 14, the eldest of four siblings. The actor portraying Peter also acts the role of
 - **Aslan**, a Lion, and the King of Narnia.
- **Susan**, age 12, is Peter's sister. The actor playing Susan also plays the part of
 - **The White Witch**, who has taken control of Narnia.
- **Edmund**, age 9, is Peter's younger brother. The actor playing Edmund also acts the role of
 - **Mr. Tumnus**, a faun (a half-man, half-goat creature) who lives in Narnia.
- **Lucy**, age 8, is Peter's youngest sister. The actor portraying Lucy also acts the part of
 - **Mr. Beaver**, a talking beaver who lives in Narnia.

To help students prepare for attending a live theater performance, see the handouts "**What to Expect When You See a Play**" and "**Theater Tips for Teens**" at mcpl.info/childrens/first-theater-experiences.



Monroe County
Public Library
Read, Learn, Connect & Create



What is the play about?

The play describes Lucy's discovery of Narnia and the adventures she and her brothers and sister have there. Narnia is a mythical country ruled by a Lion named Aslan. When Lucy and her siblings first visit, Narnia has been taken over by an evil witch called The White Witch. A legend of Narnia says that when two human boys and two human girls sit on the thrones of Narnia, then summer will return to Narnia. Lucy and her brothers, Peter and Edmund, and her older sister Susan decide to help Aslan fight the White Witch.



Historical note:

Beginning on September 7, 1940, German warplanes bombed London for 57 straight days. At first the warplanes attacked factories and airfields, but then the planes started dropping bombs on cities where people lived. The series of aerial attacks continued through May 10, 1941, and became known as The Blitz. Although more than 43,000 people throughout the United Kingdom died as a result of the bombings, The United Kingdom ended up defeating Germany. Germany had more fighter planes than the United Kingdom, but the Royal Air Force (RAF) had better planes. The RAF also used radar to learn the approach of enemy aircraft. The Germans did not use radar, which was a new technology at the time.

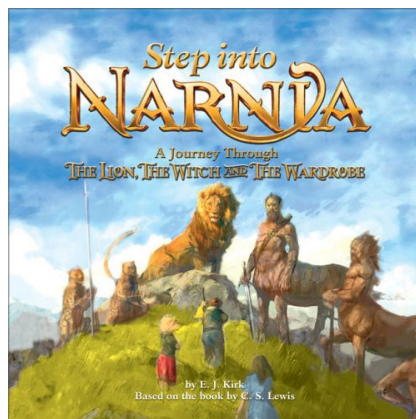
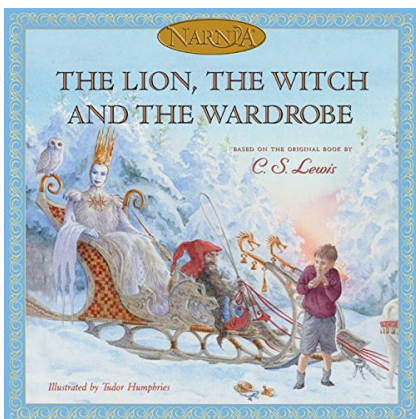
Use your library card to connect to World Book Online at mcpl.info/worldbook. Search for "World War II" to learn more about how other countries joined England to defeat Hitler and Nazi Germany. Search for the word "radar" to learn more about how scientists use radar today.

When and where does the story take place?

The story of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* begins in a country estate outside of London, England, during World War II (1939–1945). Lucy and her siblings have been sent to live there to help keep them safe while German warplanes attacked their city. While playing indoors one day, Lucy discovers an old wardrobe, a large, walk-in dresser where winter coats are stored. She climbs into the wardrobe to hide from her siblings. As she pushes coats aside, Lucy walks through the back of the wardrobe into the magical land of Narnia.



Find stories and movies based on the book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* at your Library!





Information about the author of the book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Clive Staples Lewis was born in Ireland in 1898. He was called Jack by his family and friends. He shared a bedroom with his older brother, Warren, and they liked to make up stories to entertain themselves. Lewis loved to read. His parents also were avid readers and his childhood home was filled with books. Lewis was allowed to read anything he wanted, which developed his vocabulary, knowledge, and imagination.

Lewis studied philosophy and literature at Oxford University in England and went on to become a professor of medieval and renaissance literature. He enjoyed talking about ideas, discussing books and poetry, and sharing jokes with friends. One of his good friends was the writer J.R.R. Tolkien, who wrote the book *The Hobbit*. Lewis called the book “exceptional.”

Lewis’s first published books were works of nonfiction on literary and religious subjects, including his own, Christianity. He also wrote science fiction novels. He published the fantasy story for children, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, in 1950. It became the first book in the *Chronicles of Narnia* series. Although reviewers were initially critical of the books, the stories became popular and are among the most beloved books of children’s literature today. Each story describes a struggle between good and evil, but Lewis says he did not begin with a religious theme in mind. **“I’ve never started from a message or a moral... you find out what the moral is by writing the story,” said Lewis.**

Lewis married Joy Gresham at the age of 58. He died in 1963 at the age of 65, leaving a legacy of fairy tales (which is what he called the seven fantasy stories in the *Chronicles of Narnia*) to delight and inspire millions of children and adults alike.

- Photo credit from World Book Online: “Lewis, C. S.” World Book Student, World Book, 2018, worldbookonline.com/student-new/#/article/home/ar321200. Accessed 20, July 2018.
- Author information from *C.S. Lewis: Chronicler of Narnia*, by Mary Dodson Wade, 2005.

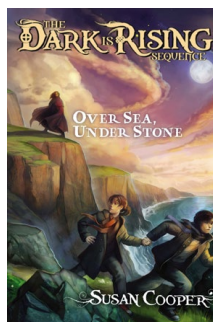
If you like *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, try these other fantasy adventure stories featuring children as the main characters, available at Monroe County Public Library.



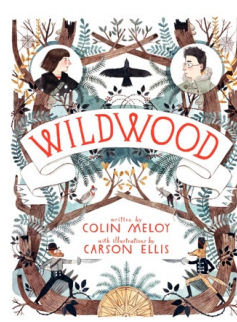
Book of Three
by Lloyd
Alexander



**Gregor the
Overlander**
by Suzanne Collins



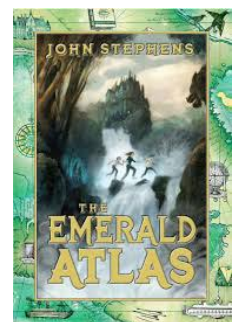
**Over Sea,
Under Stone**
by Susan Cooper



Wildwood
by Colin Meloy



The Spindlers
by Lauren Oliver



Emerald Atlas
by John Stephens

Things to Talk or Write about Before or After the Play

1. Perspective

- How does your understanding of a story change depending on who is telling it?
- The “fourth wall” is a theatrical term that refers to the idea of an invisible wall between the actors on stage and the audience. Usually actors ignore the audience to maintain a distinction between themselves and the audience as observers of the actions and conversations taking place on stage. In this play, the actors speak directly to the audience. How does this make you feel? What do the actors do to distinguish when they are in the world of Narnia, and when they are not? How do the actors help you “see” their reality? Can you think of some movies, books, or other plays you have seen or read where the actors or characters speak directly to the audience?

2. Trust

- Why does Edmund not believe Lucy when she tells him about Narnia?
- How do you feel when someone doesn't believe you?
- Why does Edmund trust the White Witch?
- What can you do to gain someone's trust?

3. Good vs. Evil

- Who are the “good” characters in this story? Who are the “bad” characters? What do we learn about these characters that make us think of them as good or evil?
- What makes someone good? Why would someone do bad things?

4. Compare and Contrast

- How is the play different from the book?
- How is the book different from the movie?
- What is the same in the different retellings of this story?

Words in the Play

Prophecy: a prediction; a message or story that tells what will happen in the future

Sleigh: a large sled, often pulled by horses, for traveling in the snow

Traitor: someone who betrays or turns against his friend or country

Turkish Delight: a chewy, sweet candy, named after the country of Turkey, where it originated

Wardrobe: a large cabinet or dresser for storing clothes

Can you use these words in a sentence? Do you hear people today using these words?

Find Activity Sheets and Other Resources About *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Educator's Guide to *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*: This guide is produced by the C.S. Lewis Foundation and geared to students in grades 5-8. It includes vocabulary enrichment activities and discussion questions. cslewis.org/resource/lewisguides

Enter the World of Narnia: This activity booklet from HarperCollins includes a trivia sheet to test your knowledge of the characters, places, and themes found in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, as well as a map of Narnia. mcpl.info/hccnarnia

LWW Study Guide: This guide is prepared by PCPA Theaterfest. It includes discussion questions for different grade levels, coloring sheets, and a word find. pcpa.org/outreach/lwwstudyguide.pdf

LWW Study Guide: This guide is produced by Show Time for Teachers and prepared for the Theaterworks/USA musical production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. It includes a summary of the story, writing prompts, and a recipe for Turkish delight. mcpl.info/lwwstudyguide