

***The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* by CS Lewis**

Ages 7-11

Reasons for selection and synopsis

Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.

One of the most classic books of all time, CS Lewis's sprawling adventure is good for the entire of KS2.

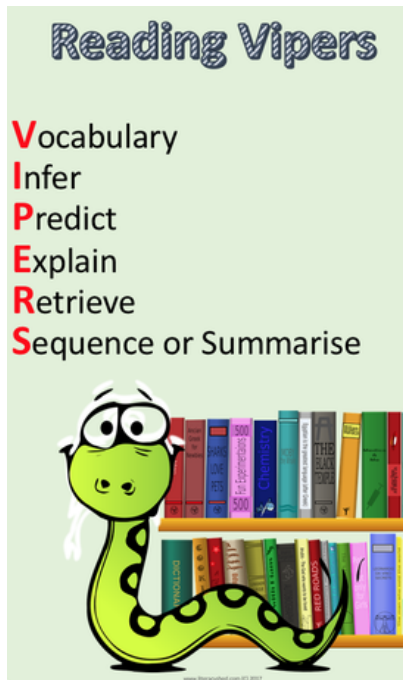
Before reading...

Ask the children to look at the front cover. What do you think the book will be about? What things can you see on the front cover?

What sort of story will it be? Who might enjoy it?

Now read the blurb – were any of your predictions correct?

What might lions, witches and wardrobes have in commons?



The following questions are designed as prompts only – allow the children to come up with their own questions and ideas. They will be much more engaged this way!

Chapter 1

Vocabulary	What does 'fallen on our feet' mean? What is a 'row'? What is a wireless? You may have to research this, as it probably isn't what you think! What do you think might be a more current, synonymous word for 'queer' in the way it's used in this story? Define inquisitive.
Infer	Why do you think Peter thinks the Professor will let them do whatever they like? Why was Edmund in a bad mood? Why were the children annoyed it was raining? Why do you think this chapter ends with the speech from the faun?
Predict	Predict what will happen when the children explore the house. Predict what will happen between Lucy and the faun.
Explain	Look at the paragraph beginning 'everyone agreed with this'. Why do you think Lewis stops telling the story from the perspective of the children and starts addressing the audience in this way? Would you have continued through the wardrobe or ran back? Why?
Retrieve	Who are the four children? When is the story set? Why was Lucy initially afraid of the Professor? What was the noise they could hear? Why did Lucy rub the coats on her face? What does Lucy find in the cupboard?
Summarise	Draw the faun from the description given.

Chapter 2

Vocabulary	Find words and phrases that show that the faun is very polite. Define 'melancholy voice'. What does 'bawled' tell you about Lucy's actions?
Infer	Why do you think the faun bows at Lucy? What might Daughter of Eve or Son of Adam mean? Why do you think Lucy finds the cave so nice? Do you think Mr Tumnus wants Lucy to go? How do you know? Support your point with evidence. Why does Lucy feel she really needs to go? Why do you think Mr Tumnus tells Lucy?
Predict	Predict from the title what Lucy did find there. Predict what will happen now Lucy is home?
Explain	Read to where Mr Tumnus offers Lucy tea. Do you think she should go? Why?
Retrieve	What does the faun ask Lucy if she is? What is the faun's name? What place is Lucy in? What does Mr Tumnus offer Lucy for tea? Where does Mr Tumnus live? Why is Mr Faun crying? Why must they keep quiet in the forest? What does Mr Tumnus keep?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter by writing a diary entry about it from the perspective of Mr Tumnus. Use no more than a side of paper.

Chapter 3

Vocabulary	What is 'amusement'? Define 'batty'. What's a hoax? What does 'of its own accord' mean?
Infer	Why is Lucy initially confused in this chapter? How did Lucy feel when the wardrobe went back to normal? How can we first tell that Edmund is in Narnia? Why do you think Edmund shivers upon arrival into Narnia? Why is the Queen annoyed?
Predict	Predict what happens when Edmund gets into the wardrobe. Predict what the Queen will do with Edmund.
Explain	Why do you think the wardrobe went back to normal? Do you like Edmund? Why? What is your first impression of the woman on the sledge?
Retrieve	What happens when the other children go into the wardrobe? Why does Edmund follow Lucy into the wardrobe? What is pulling the sledge?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter in less than 50 words.

Chapter 4

Vocabulary	What is Turkish Delight? What are dominions? Define 'flushed'. Why does Edmund look flushed? What is 'poor sport'?
Infer	Why does the Queen think Edmund is an idiot? Why does the Queen want Edmund to bring his siblings? Why doesn't Edmund want to go and get them? The Queen says Edmund 'needn't tell his siblings' about her. Why does she do this?
Predict	Predict if Edmund will get his siblings to go to Narnia, and what will happen if they do.
Explain	Explain how the Queen/Witch got Edmund to side with her.
Retrieve	Why did Edmund get into the sledge? Where did the drink come from? What food does Edmund ask for? Why does Edmund want to go to the Queen's house now? Where is the Queen's house?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter by rewriting the Queen segment from her perspective.

Chapter 5

Vocabulary	Come up with words to describe Edmund in this chapter. What does 'savagely' mean? Why does Peter act this way?
Infer	Why do you think Edmund chose to make Lucy look like a fool? How did this make you feel? Why had Lucy been crying? Why are the children shocked when the Professor asks if it could be true?
Predict	Predict what will happen now they're in the wardrobe.
Explain	What impression do you get of the Professor in this chapter?
Retrieve	Where did the game of hide and seek end? Why does everyone stop mentioning the wardrobe? Why does every hide from Mrs Macready?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter in one word and justify why you used that word.

Chapter 6

Vocabulary	What does it mean when someone gets cramped? What is 'harbouring spies and fraternizing with humans'? Define 'alighted'. Why does snow fall when the robin does this?
Infer	Why was it cold in the wardrobe? What seems to have happened to Mr Tumnus?
Predict	Predict what happened to Mr Tumnus. Predict if the children will save Mr Tumnus.
Explain	How did you feel when they got to Mr Tumnus's house?
Retrieve	How does Peter offer his apologies to Lucy? How did the children keep warm? How did everyone realise Edmund was a liar? Why do they begin to follow the robin?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter by writing a newspaper article about Mr Tumnus's disappearance. The article could be written from the Queen's approval.

Chapter 7

Vocabulary	Define 'earnestly'. Find words and phrases that show that the children were excited at the prospect of food. What does 'merely' mean?
Infer	Why do you think Lucy might think it's a nice beaver? Why do the beavers tell the children to be quiet? Why is it good that it's snowing?
Predict	Read the first page and predict what is moving.
Explain	Explain why it's unusual that CS Lewis just says 'at the end of the last chapter'.
Retrieve	Why are the girls upset at the start of the chapter? What kind of animal is it? How does the beaver prove he is trustworthy? Who is on the move? What does Edmund notice in the distance? What do you think his first thought might have been? What was Mrs Beaver doing when they came in?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter by writing a TripAdvisor review of the beavers' house.

Chapter 8

Vocabulary	What does gloomy mean? Why does Mr Beaver shake his head this way? What is 'stratagem'? Find a phrase that shows Peter is excited about the presence of Aslan. What is a 'decoy'?
Infer	How can you tell that the beavers believe Aslan is the saviour? Why is Lucy nervous about meeting Aslan? Who could the prophecy be about? Why does no one notice Edmund is missing? Where is Edmund?
Predict	Predict what Edmund will do and what will happen to him.
Explain	Do you think Edmund made the right decision? Why?
Retrieve	Who took Mr Tumnus? What happens to people who are taken to the Queen's house? Who is Aslan? True or false: the witch is human. What is the prophecy about the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve?
Summarise	Summarise the events of this chapter in less than 30 words.

Chapter 9

Vocabulary	What synonym could be used for 'reckoned'? Find words and phrases that show Edmund's desperation and hopelessness. Define 'mere'.
Infer	Why do you think the author doesn't want you to think Edmund is too bad? Why do you think Edmund became afraid of the house? Why did he go on regardless? What do you think Edmund thought the lion was? Why is the witch angry? Do you think Edmund expected this?
Predict	Predict what will happen when Edmund reaches the house. Read up to where the wolf rises. Predict what will happen next.
Explain	What effect does this first line of this chapter have? Explain why the author has switched from calling her Queen to Witch.
Retrieve	When had Edmund snuck away? What does Edmund realise instantly? How does Edmund manage to still find his way? What did the house turn out to be? What made Edmund freeze in fear? What did Edmund do to the lion statue?
Summarise	Summarise the events of this chapter in less than 50 words.

Chapter 10

Vocabulary	Define 'chimed'. What does it mean if you 'can't abide' something? Define 'frowsty'. What is a curtsy?
Infer	Why is the Queen likely to beat them there? What time of day is their journey? What impression do you get of the cave where they sleep? How do they know the Witch's magic is weakening?
Predict	Predict what the bells were. Predict how the children might use their gifts.
Explain	Explain what the purpose of this chapter was.
Retrieve	What happened when Mrs Beaver said there's no time to lose? Why does Mr Beaver pack food? Where are they trying to reach before the Witch? Who is on the sledge? What presents does Father Christmas give to the children?
Summarise	Summarise the events of this chapter in less than thirty words.

Chapter 11

Vocabulary	What does 'repulsive' mean? What is 'gluttony'? Why does the Witch use the word 'vermin'?
Infer	Why does the Queen agree to give Edmund some food? Why doesn't she give him Turkish Delight? Why is the Witch furious at the mention of Father Christmas? Why does Edmund's heart give a great leap when he realises the frost is over? Why do they have to get off the sledge?
Predict	Predict what will happen in this chapter from the title. Predict what will happen to the party.
Explain	Explain how CS Lewis switches from Winter to Spring and the effect this has on the reader.
Retrieve	What food does the Witch give to Edmund? What does the Witch send Maugrim to do? Why couldn't the wolves track the beavers? What does the Witch discover? What does the Witch do to the party?
Summarise	Summarise this story from the perspective of the Witch, writing a diary entry about the events.

Chapter 12

Vocabulary	Find words and phrases that show the children's appreciation of the change in season. What might 'royal, solemn, overwhelming eyes' suggest about Aslan? What is a prophecy?
Infer	What is your first impression of Aslan? Why? Why does no one want to go first? Why do you think Peter defends Edmund? Why does the Witch decide to keep Edmund?
Predict	Predict what Peter's first battle will be.
Explain	What is the effect of ending this chapter with the Witch and the dwarf? How does Lewis create tension in this chapter?
Retrieve	Why did the children now allow themselves more rest? What did the table look like? Why does Susan not climb the tree very high? How does Peter defeat the beast? What does Aslan rename Peter? Why do you think he does this?
Summarise	Summarise the events of this chapter in less than 100 words.

Chapter 13

Vocabulary	What does 'scornfully' mean? What does it mean if one 'craves audience'? Define 'perish'.
Infer	What is the Witch preparing Edmund for? How does the Witch hide? Why do you think Aslan says there is no need to talk to Edmund about things past? Why does the Witch believe she has the right to Edmund?
Predict	Predict what the Witch wants to do on the stone table. Predict what Aslan has done to save Edmund.
Explain	How does this chapter make you feel about Aslan? Explain your answer.
Retrieve	How is Edmund saved? Does anyone catch the Witch? How do you know? What message does the dwarf bring? Who is the traitor that the Witch refers to? What does the Witch do when Aslan roars at her?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter in one word and explain your choice of word.

Chapter 14

Vocabulary	What is a 'siege'? Define 'roused'. Find words and phrases that foreshadow tragedy. What is a synonym for bind?
Infer	'I can give you no promise of that'. What might this mean? Why do the girls follow Aslan without a word? Why do you think Aslan asks the girls to put their hands on him? Why do you think the Witch refers to Aslan as a fool? Why does Lucy cry? Why didn't the children witness the killing?
Predict	Predict what the triumph of the Witch might be. Read up to the crowd of people around the table and predict what comes next. Predict what will happen in the next chapter.
Explain	Explain how Lewis builds to tragedy in this chapter.
Retrieve	Why didn't anyone ask Aslan what he'd agreed to? Why does Aslan's mood affect everyone? Why does Aslan allow the girls to go with him? Why mightn't Aslan want the girls to be seen? What do they first do to Aslan?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter by writing instructions on how to slay a king.

Chapter 15

Vocabulary	What is 'vermin'? What are battlements?
Infer	What does the Witch plan to do now Aslan is dead? Why do you think they took the muzzle off? Why do you think Aslan came back?
Predict	What deeper magic might happen in this chapter? Predict what the great cracking noise was. Predict what Aslan will do next.
Explain	Explain how this chapter made you feel.
Retrieve	What begins to crawl over Aslan? What is the initial reaction to this? What were the mice actually doing? What was the great cracking noise? What does Aslan make the children do when he roars? Why? Where does Aslan take the children?
Summarise	Summarise this chapter by rewriting it from the perspective of Aslan.

Chapter 16

Vocabulary	Define 'dratted'. What is a synonym for 'concealed'?
Infer	Why is Susan worried about her safety? How do you think Lucy felt when she found Mr Tumnus? How horrifying are the battle scenes? How do you know?
Predict	Predict how the story will end.
Explain	Explain how this chapter is uplifting.
Retrieve	What happens when Aslan breathes on the animals? What is the giant's name? Why was the handkerchief useless?

Summarise	Summarise this chapter in less than twenty words.
-----------	---

Chapter 17

Vocabulary	What does 'take flight' mean? What does Aslan mean by 'bear it well'. Define 'amidst'.
Infer	Why did most of the enemies run when they saw the Witch dead? Why is Aslan very harsh about helping the other wounded over Edmund? Why do you think Aslan knights Edmund? How does the children's speech change when they become rulers? Why?
Predict	Predict what might happen in the next book.
Explain	Explain why Lewis may have given Edmund retribution.
Retrieve	How did Edmund save the day? How did Lucy make Edmund well again? Did the children reign well?
Summarise	Summarise the whole story in less than 200 words.