



C.S. LEWIS

"I see pictures. . . . I have no idea whether this is the usual way of writing stories, still less whether it is the best. It is the only one I know: images always come first."

Clive Staples Lewis, or Jack Lewis, as he preferred to be called, was born in Belfast, Ireland (now Northern Ireland) on November 29, 1898. He was the second son of Albert Lewis, a lawyer, and Flora Hamilton Lewis. In 1916 Lewis was accepted at University College, the oldest college at Oxford University. Soon after he entered the University, however, Lewis chose to volunteer for active duty in World War I, to serve in the British Army. After the war he remained at Oxford for 29 years before becoming a professor of medieval and renaissance literature at Magdalene College, Cambridge, in 1955. He is the author of works for both children and adults. He is best known for the Narnia series he wrote for children. The Narnia books have since sold more than 100 million copies and are among the most beloved books of classic children's literature.

Birth: November 29, 1898 in Belfast, Ireland

Death: November 22, 1963 in Oxford, England

Nationality: English

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

By C.S. Lewis

About this Book

Four English school children find their way through the back of a wardrobe into the magic land of Narnia and assist Aslan, the golden lion, to triumph over the White Witch who has cursed the land with eternal winter.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why does the professor's house seem like a place where one could slip into a magical world?
2. Why do you think Lucy cries when the other children doubt her story about Narnia?
3. In Narnia the children aren't sure at first whom to trust. Edmund introduces this idea because the White Witch had been so "nice" to him. Why can it be difficult to know whom to trust?
4. Why doesn't Edmund notice that the White Witch's smile "isn't so nice?" Why doesn't he notice what's happening to him?
5. When the children learn of Aslan, they are filled with wonder and excitement, but Edmund "felt a sensation of mysterious horror." Why?
6. When the children see Aslan they understand that something can be "good and terrible at the same time." How could this be?
7. In the story, Sons of Adam go before animals. Do you think human beings are more important than animals? Why or why not?
8. Why does Aslan allow himself to be killed? How did you feel when Aslan died? Were you surprised that he lived again?
9. Do you think the children were "fated" to become Kings and Queens? Do you believe in fate? Why do you think the author has the characters return to the real world at the end of the book?

Resources referenced:

kidsreads.com, teenreads.com, bookrags.com, teachingbooks.com, multcolib.org, barnesandnoble.com,
And MPL Staff.