



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
Study Guide

Dear Teachers,
New Mexico Young Actors proudly presents...

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
Adapted by Don Quinn from C.S. Lewis' story
Directed by Joel Gelpe

Welcome to New Mexico Young Actors' production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. We are offering this study guide as a way to help you prepare your classes for our upcoming touring production at your school. Included in this guide are a historical note about the story, a synopsis of the play, a list of characters, a vocabulary list and curriculum ideas, and some audience

protocol reminders. We always enjoy hearing from you and your students and look forward to receiving any pictures, stories, or comments about the production. Thank you for your support of New Mexico Young Actors. We look forward to seeing you at your school.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND INFO

Our play, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, is part of a series of books called “The Chronicles of Narnia.” The author of the stories, C. S. Lewis, specialized in fantasy novels in much the same way that J.R.R. Tolkien, the author of “The Lord of the Ring” and “The Hobbit” did. In fact, the authors were both British and were good friends. In addition to writing novels, Lewis was also a Professor of English Literature at both Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

PERSONAL RECOMMENDATION from Executive Director Joel Gelpe: Teachers and other adults who are interested in learning about Lewis’ personal life might want to watch the poignant movie “Shadowlands” starring Anthony Hopkins as Lewis and Debra Winger as his wife. Not recommended for your students, mainly due to the serious and tragic nature of the story.

SYNOPSIS

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Narnia is a mythical world that is supposed to be ruled by the heroic, godly lion named Aslan, but instead, it's ruled by the evil White Witch, who brags about how she stole Narnia so she could rule it herself. In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* we follow the adventures of four siblings, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, who are visiting a professor in her countryside mansion in England. Their amazing adventures begin when Lucy discovers Narnia by walking into special kind of clothes closet called a "wardrobe." By some miracle this wardrobe is a portal into the mysterious land of Narnia, where it's "always winter but never Christmas."

Eventually, all four children visit Narnia where they meet Mr. Tumnus, a loveable, nervous faun. By the way, when faun is spelled with a *u*, it means a mythical creature with two horns on the top of his head and two pointy ears that stick out of the sides of his head. The baby deer called a "fawn" is spelled with a *w*. They also meet two talking beavers, a mean wolf, and of course, the White Witch. They also learn about the prophecy of the Thrones of Cair Paravel. The legend says that if two human boys and two human girls sit on the four thrones of Cair Paravel, which is supposed to be the capitol of Narnia, then the White Witch will rule no more, and Aslan will rule, and Narnia will no longer be stuck with eternal winter.

You can imagine how the White Witch wouldn't want two boys and two girls to sit in those thrones, and it just so happens that Peter, Edmund, Susan and Lucy are two boys and two girls. What do you think the Witch might do?

CHARACTERS

The Professor, a kindly, older lady

Peter, Susan, Edmund & Lucy, the four children listed from oldest to youngest

Mr. Tumnus, the faun whom Lucy meets

The White Witch, “queen” of Narnia

Mr. and Mrs Beaver, forest animals who help the children

Fenris Ulf, a wolf and chief of the Witch’s secret police

Father Christmas, the person we call Santa Claus

Mrs. Macready, the Professor’s housekeeper

Dwarfs, other creatures both good and bad

Aslan, a lion and savior of Narnia

VOCABULARY

wardrobe

discriminating

faun

mythology

inquisitive

Turkish Delight

mothball

treacherous

unicorn

zigzag stitch

dryad

sluice gate

shilling

cordial (drink)

dominion

beaver dam

prophecy

ogre

CAN YOU NAME?

Can you name stories, movies or TV shows that have any of these mythical creatures?

witch

ogre

unicorn

Minotaur

centaur

cyclops

nymph

dryad

mermaid

dragon

hydra

fairy

goblin

leprechaun

gnome

faun

CAN YOU DRAW?

Can you draw any of the creatures in the Can You Name list?