

Bishop Ready High School
Summer Reading 2023 – grades 9-12

Each summer, our students and faculty read a novel or non-fiction piece that tells a story connecting to a course or a theme we as a community are examining. This year, please join us as we explore the realm of Narnia, that special world created by C.S. Lewis that teaches us about friendship, loyalty, and Christian values. Although *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is not necessarily a challenging read, the message Lewis conveys is one of complexity and Christianity, of import and intrigue, of Faith and forgiveness.

As you read, please consider noting qualities about these significant characters:

- Aslan
- Peter
- Susan
- Edmund
- Lucy
- Mr. and Mrs. Beaver
- Jadis, the White Witch
- Mr. Tumnus
- Professor Kirke
- the Dwarf
- Father Christmas

And think about these themes:

- Betrayal
- Humanity's Redemption
- The Devil's Power / the power of evil
- Resurrection
- Transformation

Look for elements of Christian allegory – the characters and the story echo Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Aslan, for example, represents Jesus. The Pevensie children are disciples, as are the Narnians loyal to Aslan. Look for those who keep the peace, who never falter in their faith, and those who struggle mightily to trust in what is obvious. Who embodies the Devil? Who is redeemed? Who believes but is afraid to believe? Who works for peace?

We will discuss the story and themes in all classes and castles next fall, and we will test your knowledge and understanding of the story, the story elements, the literary devices, and the allegorical aspects in your English classes.

Enjoy this little bit of Narnia. If you are enthralled, read the other six stories in the Chronicles.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

C.S.Lewis

Harper Collins, 2008 (reprint)

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