

The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe

By Joseph Robinette
Adapted from the book by C.S. Lewis

STUDY GUIDE



PROVIDED BY BIRMINGHAM CHILDREN'S THEATRE

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Performance Dates & How to Use This Guide

“The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe”
By Joseph Robinette
Based upon the book by C.S. Lewis
Directed by Henry Scott

Performance Dates Available
November 9 - December 16, 2022
Tuesdays - Fridays @ 10:00am at the BJCC
in the MainStage Theatre
Great for ages: 6 & older

Visit www.bct123.org for more information or to book a field trip today!

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This classroom guide for “The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe” is designed for Alabama students in Elementary School.

Use this guide to prepare for your trip to the theatre.

After the show, further the experience with activities that can be integrated into your current classroom curriculum.

(A list of State Standards covered can be found on page 8)

Lastly, we would love to hear from you! Please have your students fill out the “Post Show Response” form.

(All worksheets can be found in the “Study Guide Printables” packet provided)

Your Role as the Audience

Dear Audience Members,

We are thrilled to have you in our MainStage Theatre this holiday season for *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*.

Rules we want to make sure everyone is aware of:

- **Masks on!** (for anyone 2 years or older) When the CDC COVID Data Tracker classifies Jefferson County as a HIGH status county on their Community Transmission Scale, BCT's mask policy will be Masks Required in our Wee Folks Theatre. Our organization will continue to monitor community transmission rates for Jefferson County and update schools with any changes to this status. BCT's full Care Commitment can be found at <https://www.bct123.org/care-commitment>
- **Cell phones off!** And put away - this is an immersive show that asks its audiences to be engaged in the storytelling

In theatre, the audience is an extremely important part of our storytelling, and we need your help to make this the best show possible for you and your fellow audience members!

While the show is happening, DO

- Give your full attention to the actors and the story
- Feel free to laugh, gasp, and applaud!

And to make sure everyone can enjoy the show, we ask that you DON'T

- Talk to your friends and neighbors
- Wave, shout, or disrupt the performance

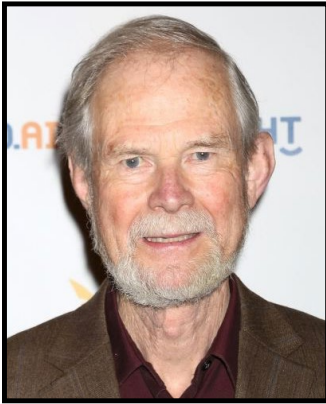
C.S. Lewis' classic work comes to life in this wonderful production with all the magic and mystery of Aslan the great lion, his struggle with the White Witch, and the adventures of four children who inadvertently wander from an old wardrobe into the exciting, never-to-be-forgotten Narnia. This story of love, faith, courage and giving - with its triumph of good over evil - is a true celebration of life and sure to warm young hearts this December.

We hope you enjoy the show!

See you soon,

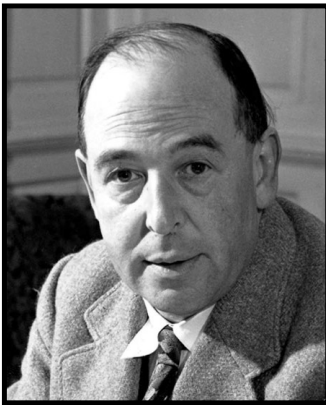
Birmingham Children's Theatre

About the Artists



JOSEPH ROBINETTE - PLAYWRIGHT

Joseph Robinette is a Tony Award nominee and Drama Desk Award nominee for the libretto of the acclaimed *A Christmas Story, The Musical*. He is the author or co-author of 55 published plays and musicals. Twelve of his works have been translated into foreign languages, and another five have been anthologized. Robinette collaborated with E.B. White on the authorized stage version of *Charlotte's Web*, and he wrote the musical version with Charles Strouse (*Annie and Bye, Bye, Birdie*). He is the recipient of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education's Distinguished Play Award for *Sarah, Plain and Tall* and the Children's Theatre Foundation of America medallion for his "body of dramatic works for family audiences in the United States and beyond."



C.S. LEWIS - AUTHOR

Few authors of fantasy literature are as beloved as C.S. Lewis, born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on November 29, 1898. Time magazine has listed the first of his *Chronicles of Narnia*, "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe", as one of the top 100 English language novels written in the twentieth century. At first glance Lewis was, perhaps, an unlikely person to have crafted such highly regarded works of fantasy. A brilliant academic, he was educated at Oxford University, and returned there following service in World War I to become a Fellow and Tutor of English Literature at Magdalen College. Later, in 1954, he was appointed to the Chair of Medieval and Renaissance Literature at Magdalene College, Cambridge University.

But Lewis had loved fantasy literature since his early years, and was then deeply influenced by his reading of George MacDonald's great imaginative tale "Phantastes". Still earlier, as a boy, he had created Boxen—an imaginary world where animals talked and had adventures. As an adult, Lewis's scholarly studies were steeped in chivalric literature and medieval legends. Lastly, he was highly favored in that he had a decades-long friendship with J.R.R. Tolkien, the creator of "The Hobbit" and "The Lord of the Rings". There were other influences upon him, but these aspects of his life proved crucial catalysts for him to pen the *Chronicles of Narnia*.

Lewis and Tolkien were both members of a celebrated literary circle, The Inklings, which met at Oxford. And as Lewis's fame grew, many people wrote to him. This opened an unexpected door of ministry, for many of his correspondents were Christians, as he was, or were interested in the truth claims of Christianity.

There are many more things that could be said about C.S. Lewis, but it is enough to say that the wonder does not end here. Visitors to his Oxford home, The Kilns, can sojourn and study in the same setting where he wrote his books. And most recently of all, in America, Lewis's life and books have served as the inspiration for the creation of new college of the great books that bears his name. Lewis's legacy endures, and will endure, so long as stories can capture the imagination of readers.



HENRY SCOTT - DIRECTOR

Henry Scott is thrilled to return to BCT as the director of *The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*. As a director, choreographer, musician and teacher Henry has been a facilitator of the creative process for 41 years. He is known for creating a positive, supportive environment in which artists experience the freedom to explore and develop their expression and expertise. Henry's work has been seen locally on the stages of Red Mountain Theatre Company, Terrific New Theatre, Virginia Samford Theatre, Birmingham Children's Theatre, Central Alabama Theatre and The Hoover Library Theatre.

He hopes that you enjoy the show!

Synopsis

Setting: England in World War II *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is a script about four siblings; Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie; who are sent to live in the country with their Uncle Digory, during the bombing of London. Lucy discovers a magic wardrobe in her uncle's home and upon stepping inside she finds herself in a strange new land called Narnia. Lucy meets a faun named Tumnus and learns about the evil White Witch who rules the land. Lucy's siblings don't believe her story about the wardrobe. Then, Edmund follows Lucy into the wardrobe one day and ends up in Narnia. There, he meets the White Witch and is fooled into believing that the Witch is good. Eventually Peter and Susan also enter Narnia where they discover that Tumnus has been captured by the White Witch.

Guided by the inhabitants of the forest, the children seek out a lion named Aslan who can help them save both Tumnus and Edmund from the wrath of the White Witch. Aslan helps the children find Edmund, who the Witch has decided to kill, to avoid fulfilling a prophecy that four humans will one day rule Narnia. Aslan offers himself as a sacrifice to spare Edmund's life. The White Witch accepts this exchange and kills Aslan. While Susan and Lucy are grieving over Aslan's death, they discover that he has risen from the dead. Aslan carries the sisters to the Witch's castle where they free all the prisoners who have been turned to stone. Aslan helps the children defeat the Witch's army and the Witch is killed. The four siblings become the kings and queens of Narnia. They grow into adults and rule from the castle Cair Paravel for many years. One day, they unexpectedly exit the wardrobe and return to Uncle Digory's home as children.



State Standards and Activities Overview

STATE STANDARDS ADDRESSED

- Reading:
R.L. 5.1-5.10
R.I. 5.1-5.10
- Writing:
W. 5.1-3(a-e)
W. 5.4-5.8,
W. 5.9a-b,
W. 5.10
- Speaking and Listening:
SL 5.1a-d,
SL 5.2.-5.6
- Language:
L 5.1-2a-e
L 5.2a-e.
L 5.3a-b
L 5.4a-c
L 5.5a-c
L 5.6

ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

- Students explore the world of fantasy and how authors use fantastical setting and characters to teach life lessons.
- In this story, students explore a myriad of themes and ideas such as:
 - the opposition of good and evil;
 - the value in: courage, adventure, forgiveness, and honesty; and
 - the importance of maintaining the natural world.
- Activities can be found on pages 9 - 11 of this packet.

Activities

GROUP DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

1. What are some individual character traits of each of the four children: Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy? How do they change over the course of the story?
2. Compare and contrast the characters of the Lion and the Witch (for example, what kinds of power they have, how they exercise power, how they treat others, what they want).
3. What do you think is the most courageous act shown in this book? Explain.
4. Why do you think Edmund lies about having been to Narnia? How does lying affect him?
5. How does Edmund justify his choice to go to the White Witch? Why do you think people make up excuses for doing something that deep inside they know is wrong?
6. What do you think of the Professor's advice to the children at the end of the book? What message might the author be sending to the reader?

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND CONNECTIONS

- C. S Lewis wrote *The Chronicles of Narnia* in the years following the catastrophic events of World War II.
- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* takes place in England in 1939. The story concerns four siblings who are sent to a vast country estate in order to escape the air raids in London. Through a magic wardrobe, they stumble into the land of Narnia which is being ruled with dark magic by the White Witch - who ensures that it is always winter - and never Christmas! Only the return of the great and powerful lion, Aslan, can break the Witch's evil spell and defeat the forces of evil.
- Research the events of the Second World War and consider why the Allied defeat of the Nazis has been viewed as the triumph of good over evil. Discuss how these events might have influenced or may be reflected in the plot of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.
- *World War II Background: In response to Hitler's invasion of Czech lands in March 1939, Britain and France agreed to support Poland in the event of a German invasion there. Two days after Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany. In 1940, Germany began air attacks on British shipping ports and airfields. By August of that year, the bombing raids were targeting London and other British cities. For several months, London was under attack and residents were required to use heavy black cloth window coverings to prevent light from being visible to the German bombers. Over 43,000 civilians died during what came to be known as the London Blitz. 140,000 others were injured. It was during this time that thousands of children were sent to the country to live with relatives, friends, and strangers for their own safety. By March 1941, the British Royal Air Force had defeated the German Luftwaffe in what came to be called the Battle of Britain.*

MAPPING NARNIA

- Create a map of the world of Narnia showing its' physical features, towns, and other places of interest.
- You may want to include drawings of some of the characters and events.

CONT.

Activities

THE MAIN EVENTS

Make a story map or a story board outlining the main events of the play.

WHAT A FIRST IMPRESSION!

In role, as Edmund, write a song, a poem, or create your own work of art showing how the White Witch must have looked to you when you first saw her.

COOKING ACTIVITY

Turkish Delight Recipe:

In the play, the White Witch gives Edmund a piece of enchanted candy called Turkish Delight. The candy causes an insatiable greed for more and Edmund finds himself caught up in the Witch's treachery, willing to turn his own siblings over to the Witch! According to Turkish legend, a confectioner named Ali Muhiddin Haci Bekir created the treat in the mid-1700s after hearing the Sultan of Turkey complain about breaking his teeth on hard candy. Anxious to please the Sultan, Bekir whipped up a batch of soft, chewy candy called rahat lokum which means "comfortable morsel." Today the candy is simply called lokum or Turkish Delight.

Ingredients:

4 cups sugar
4 1/2 cups water
2 tsp. lemon juice
1 1/4 cups cornstarch
1 tsp. cream of tartar
1 1/2 Tbsp. rosewater
(red food coloring)
1 cup powdered sugar

Step 1: Oil a 9-inch square pan. Line with plastic wrap and oil the plastic wrap.

Step 2: In a heavy saucepan over medium heat, combine the sugar, 1 1/2 c. of water, and the lemon juice. Stir until the sugar dissolves and the mixture boils. When the sugar syrup boils, coat the inside of the saucepan with a brush dipped in water to prevent sugar crystals from forming. Reduce heat and simmer gently without stirring, until the mixture reaches the softball stage (240 degrees). Remove the pan from heat.

Step 3: In a second large heavy saucepan over medium heat, stir together 1 cup cornstarch and the cream of tartar. Gradually stir in the remaining 3 cups of water until no lumps remain. Stir constantly, until the mixture boils and is a thick, gluey paste.

Step 4: Slowly pour the hot sugar, water, and lemon juice syrup into the cornstarch mixture, stirring constantly. Reduce the heat and simmer, stirring often to prevent sticking, for about 1 hour or until the mixture has become a pale golden color.

Step 5: Stir in the rosewater and tint as desired with food coloring. Pour the mixture into the prepared pan and spread evenly. Cool to room temperature and let stand, uncovered, overnight to set.

Step 6: Sift the powdered sugar and the remaining 1/4 cup cornstarch onto a large cutting board. Turn the Turkish Delight out and cut into 1-inch squares with an oiled knife. Roll pieces in the sugar mixture to coat well. Store in an airtight container with sheets of waxed paper, dusted with the sugar mixture, separating every layer.

CONT.

Activities

COLLECTIVE DRAWINGS

- C. S. Lewis is very descriptive with the details of Mr. Beaver's home.
- After reading the passage, have the children draw an interpretation of Mr. Beaver's home whether on their own or in small groups.
- After seeing the play performed, revisit and compare these drawings to see how the set designer interpreted this visually.

JOURNAL WRITING

- Write a Fantasy
- Imagine you slipped through a secret passage into another world. Make up a fantasy about meeting someone there. Write about what happens and how you get back.

EXPLORING THE LANGUAGE

- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is written in the idiom of 1940's Britain and some vocabulary may therefore be unfamiliar to North American students.
- Have students note any unfamiliar words and expressions as you read through the story.
- In small groups have them discuss what these words and expressions mean.
- As a whole group, you will then create a two-column "translation" chart which includes their definitions. You can keep adding to this chart throughout your study of the novel/play.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Read the book: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
- Educator's Guide (Vocabulary & Activities for the Book) [conedrwt.pdf \(cslewis.org\)](https://www.cslewis.org/conedrwt.pdf)
- Coloring Page: *Page 2 in Printables Packet*



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THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Questions? Contact Education & Engagement Coordinator,
Tramelle Shambray at tramelle@bct123.org
