

# QUICK CARD: *THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE*



Reference	<i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> , by C. S. Lewis. ISBN: 978-0001720299
Plot	Four siblings evacuated from WWII London explore the country house that harbors them and find a mysterious portal into another country, Narnia, where a usurper keeps the land in perpetual winter. When Edmund, the middle child, meets this ruler, she corrupts him as well. Can his siblings rescue him and the country from the curse of this White Witch?
Setting	WWII London during the blitz Professor Kirke's house in the country Narnia, a magical land the children discover through a portal in an old, unused wardrobe. The childhood of the protagonists
Characters	Lucy Pevensie, youngest sibling Edmund Pevensie, middle boy and the protagonist of the story Peter Pevensie, eldest boy Susan Pevensie, eldest girl The White Witch, the usurper who rules Narnia and preys on Edmund Aslan, the rightful king of Narnia and a Christ-figure in the story Mr. Tumnus, the "spy" faun who befriends Lucy intending to turn her into the witch Mr. and Mrs. Beaver, true Narnians who remain loyal to Aslan Father Christmas, a harbinger of the White Witch's defeat
Conflict	Man vs. Man/Man vs. Self – Selfish and peevish Edmund bullies his little sister, Lucy, and intends to betray his siblings to the White Witch for a little Turkish Delight. She, of course, betrays him and imprisons him for treason. His life is forfeit by law. He has done this to himself; he can hope for no deliverance. Who will help him?  Man vs. God – Edmund casts his lot with the White Witch, the usurper of Narnia's true king, Aslan. He makes himself an enemy of the good king.  Man vs. Society – Initially, Edmund allies himself with the traitorous White Witch, making himself an enemy of true Narnians.

<p style="text-align: center;">Theme</p>	<p>The story turns on Aslan’s voluntary death in Edmund’s place, yielding themes of Substitutionary Atonement, Undeserved Mercy, Forgiveness, and Self-Sacrificial Love, all of which recall the Christian story of the Fall of Man and Christ’s substitutionary crucifixion and resurrection. Lewis presents a Law vs. Grace narrative in which Sin and Redemption surface as major themes. In addition, Lucy’s childlike belief evokes themes of childlike faith.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Literary Devices</p>	<p><b>Imagery</b> – Aslan revives those Narnians the White Witch has turned to stone by breathing on them.</p> <p><b>Allusions</b> –  Aslan’s breathing on the stone encased Narnians recalls God breathing the breath of life into the original Adam in the Creation story of Genesis. Aslan recalls Jesus of the New Testament. Professor Kirke’s comment: “What are they teaching in those schools?” recalls modernist educational philosophy, of which Lewis wrote against in his <i>Abolition of Man</i>. The Sons of Adam and the Daughters of Eve recall again the Genesis story of Creation and the Fall, indicating the dignity of man, the <i>imago dei</i>, and his ultimate call to rule over the created world (the Dominion Mandate in Genesis).</p> <p><b>Symbolism</b> – Father Christmas shows up as a harbinger of Aslan’s return and the White Witch’s imminent defeat. Always winter and never Christmas symbolizes the evil grip of the White Witch on Narnia, her absolute domination of the citizens. Turkish Delight symbolizes the sweetness of temptation. The witch is “white” to suggest that evil often masquerades behind goodness. Things are not always as they seem. The gifts of Father Christmas each symbolize a character quality associated with the child that receives it as well as a future deed the child will be called upon to do. Lucy receives a dagger for self-defense and restorative cordial that she will use to revive the fallen during the battle. Peter receives the sword that will later slay the queen’s wolf guard, giving him the title Sir Peter Wolf’s-bane, and a shield emblazoned with a lion, suggesting that he will fight in Aslan’s service. Susan receives a bow and arrows with which to defend herself and a horn that will summon help from afar when sounded. The Stone Table represents the Law. The Deeper Magic from before the dawn of time represents the redemptive nature of self-sacrifice. The Emperor-Over-the-Sea is a type of the Christian God. Aslan is a type of Christ.</p> <p><b>Mythopoeic Literature</b> – (genre) A combination of fairy tale, myth, and poetry. This is allegorical in nature, but not pure allegory. It offers a way to discuss the realities of the unseen world, which the Apostle Paul states is more real and lasting than the seen in 2 Cor. 4:18. Things and characters in the story may serve as metaphors for persons and things in the real world, much in the same way as metaphors in poetry allow poets to discuss ideas through figurative language.</p>