

## **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S Lewis.**

### **Introduction**

Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie are four siblings sent to live in the country with the eccentric Professor Kirke during World War II. The children explore the house on a rainy day and Lucy, the youngest, finds an enormous wardrobe. Lucy steps inside and finds herself in a strange, snowy wood. Lucy encounters the Faun Tumnus, who is surprised to meet a human girl. Tumnus tells Lucy that she has entered Narnia, a different world. Tumnus invites Lucy to tea, and she accepts. Lucy and Tumnus have a wonderful tea, but the faun bursts into tears and confesses that he is a servant of the evil White Witch. The Witch has enchanted Narnia so that it is always winter and never Christmas. Tumnus explains that he has been enlisted to capture human beings. Lucy implores Tumnus to release her, and he agrees.

Lucy exits Narnia and eagerly tells her siblings about her adventure in the wardrobe. They do not believe her, however. Lucy's siblings insist that Lucy was only gone for seconds and not for hours as she claims. When the Pevensie children look in the back of the wardrobe they see that it is an ordinary piece of furniture. Edmund teases Lucy mercilessly about her imaginary country until one day when he sees her vanishing into the wardrobe. Edmund follows Lucy and finds himself in Narnia as well. He does not see Lucy, and instead meets the White Witch that Tumnus told Lucy about. The White Witch introduces herself to Edmund as the Queen of Narnia. The Witch feeds Edmund enchanted Turkish Delight, which gives Edmund an insatiable desire for the dessert. The Witch uses Edmund's greed and gluttony to convince Edmund to bring back his siblings to meet her.

On the way back to the lamppost, the border between Narnia and our world, Edmund meets Lucy. Lucy tells Edmund about the White Witch. Edmund denies any connection between the Witch and the Queen. All Edmund can think about is his desire for the Turkish Delight. Lucy and Edmund return to Peter and Susan, back in their own world. Lucy relies on Edmund to support her story about Narnia, but Edmund spitefully tells Peter and Susan that it is a silly story. Peter and Susan are worried that Lucy is insane so they talk to

Professor Kirke. The Professor shocks Peter and Susan by arguing that Lucy is telling the truth.

One day the children hide in the wardrobe to avoid the housekeeper and some houseguests. Suddenly all four Pevensie children find themselves in Narnia. Lucy leads them to Tumnus's home, but a note informs them that Tumnus has been arrested on charges of treason.

## **Extract from The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.**

The door had been wrenched off its hinges and broken to bits. Inside, the cave was dark and cold and had the damp feel and smell of a place that had not been lived in for several days. Snow had drifted in from the doorway and was heaped on the floor, mixed with something black, which turned out to be the charred sticks and ashes from the fire. Someone had apparently flung it about the room and then stamped it out. The crockery lay smashed on the floor and the picture of the Faun's father had been slashed to shreds with a knife...

**Characters:**

- Peter Pevensie

Peter is the oldest of the Pevensie children, and he is noble and courageous.

- Susan Pevensie

The second oldest of the Pevensie children, Susan is sweet and kind.

- Edmund Pevensie

The third oldest Pevensie child, Edmund is spiteful and mean, and likes to tease his sister, Lucy. His greed for the enchanted Turkish Delight leads him to act as a traitor against his siblings. Edmund joins forces with the White Witch and is partly to blame for the capture of Mr Tumnus, this would be his secret.

- Lucy Pevensie

The youngest Pevensie is cheerful, kind, and brave. This curious, happy-go-lucky girl is the first of the children to venture into Narnia. Later, she urges her siblings to search for her friend, Tumnus, when they find that the faun's home is ransacked.

## Checklist for Playscripts

### Layout

- Start with the person's name
- Stage directions written in brackets
- Each speech written on a new line
- No speech marks
- No use of the word "said"

### Content

- Decide on key characters and stick to them!
- Use repeated phrases/actions for each character to emphasise their individuality.
- Use dialogue and stage directions (particularly adverbs and adverbial phrases) to develop the character's individuality.
- Look at the ending of the script. It could solve the problem introduced at the start of your play - just like in stories.
- Make sure the narrator has a purpose.
  - A narrator can:
    - + set the scene (The secret home was dark but well loved ...);
    - + move the action forward (Lucy stepped across the room and picked up...);
    - + describe a character's actions ( He made a gasping noise, an animal in distress, holding onto the table to steady himself...);
    - + offer an opinion on characters and their actions (Edmund although looking shocked had a strange look ...).