

Comprehension: The Lion, Witch and Wardrobe

During a roaring Blitz in 1940s London, Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie found themselves whisked away to the serene countryside. Their new home was no ordinary cottage; it was a sprawling mansion owned by the enigmatic Professor Digory Kirke. The house was vast, with more rooms than they could count and secrets that seemed to linger in every corner.

The children, eager to distract themselves from the war and the unfamiliarity of their surroundings, decided to explore. On one such expedition, Lucy, the youngest, stumbled upon an old wardrobe in a dusty spare room. Curious, she stepped inside, pushing past thick fur coats, only to feel the crunch of snow beneath her feet. The air was crisp, and she realised she was no longer in the house but in a magical, snow-covered forest.



It was here that Lucy met a peculiar creature named Mr Tumnus, a faun with the legs of a goat and the kind face of a man. He invited her to his cozy cave, where they warmed up with tea and delightful stories. But Tumnus had a guilty secret. He revealed that the White Witch, the tyrant who had cursed Narnia into eternal winter, had ordered him to report any human he found. Unable to betray Lucy's kindness, Tumnus helped her return home. Lucy rushed to tell her siblings about her adventure, but they merely laughed. To them, the wardrobe was just a wardrobe.

One night, Edmund followed Lucy into the wardrobe, hoping to mock her claims. Instead, he found himself in a different part of Narnia. He soon encountered the White Witch, a striking figure in a sleigh. She introduced herself as the Queen of Narnia and enticed him with enchanted Turkish delight, a treat so delicious it left him craving more. She promised to make Edmund a prince if he brought his siblings to her. Greedy for power, Edmund agreed.

When Lucy and Edmund returned to the mansion, Lucy was thrilled Edmund had seen Narnia too. But to her dismay, he denied it. Lucy was heartbroken, and her older siblings dismissed the entire affair as a childish game.

Days later, the four children hid in the wardrobe while avoiding the Professor's strict housekeeper. As they pressed further back, the wardrobe gave way to the snow-filled forest. The magical world of Narnia was real! Lucy guided them to Tumnus's cave, only to find it ransacked. A note left behind revealed that the faun had been arrested for treason.

Lost and unsure, the children encountered Mr and Mrs Beaver, a pair of talking animals with gentle hearts. The Beavers explained that Narnia was under a prophecy: when two Sons of Adam and two Daughters of Eve sat on the four thrones of Cair Paravel, the White Witch's reign

would end. The true king, a majestic lion named Aslan, had returned to Narnia and was preparing to meet them at the Stone Table.

As the Beavers spoke, Edmund slipped away to the White Witch's castle, driven by her promise of power. When he arrived, the Witch's true cruelty was revealed. Her castle was filled with stone statues—creatures she had petrified. She forced Edmund to reveal Aslan's return and dragged him along to intercept his siblings.

Meanwhile, the remaining Pevensies journeyed to meet Aslan, guided by the Beavers. On the way, the perpetual winter began to melt. Father Christmas, a figure long banished by the Witch, arrived to give the children gifts: a sword and shield for Peter, a bow and horn for Susan, and a healing cordial for Lucy. These gifts, he promised, would aid them in the battles to come.

At the Stone Table, the children finally met Aslan, whose presence filled them with awe and hope. But the reunion was cut short when the Witch's wolf captain attacked. Peter bravely defended his siblings, slaying the wolf and earning his place as a leader. Moments later, the Witch appeared, invoking ancient laws. She claimed Edmund's life as punishment for his betrayal.

Aslan, unwilling to let Edmund perish, negotiated with the Witch in private. When he returned, he announced that Edmund would be spared. That night, Susan and Lucy noticed Aslan leaving the camp and followed him. They witnessed a heart-wrenching scene: Aslan sacrificed himself on the Stone Table, allowing the Witch to take his life in place of Edmund's.

Devastated, the girls stayed with Aslan's lifeless body. But as dawn broke, the Stone Table cracked, and Aslan returned, his mane glowing with life. He explained that a deeper magic existed: if an innocent willingly took the place of a traitor, death would reverse itself.

With newfound strength, Aslan led Susan and Lucy to the Witch's castle. There, he breathed life into the stone statues, amassing an army. Together, they joined Peter and Edmund, who were leading the Narnians in a fierce battle against the Witch's forces. The Witch fought viciously but was no match for Aslan. With one mighty leap, he ended her reign forever.

The battle won, the Pevensies were crowned as kings and queens of Narnia at Cair Paravel. Peter the Magnificent, Susan the Gentle, Edmund the Just, and Lucy the Valiant ruled wisely, bringing peace and prosperity to the land.

Years passed, and the siblings grew into adulthood. One day, while hunting the fabled White Stag, they stumbled upon the lamppost where their adventure had begun. Without realising it, they stepped through the wardrobe and found themselves back in the Professor's house, children once more. Not a second had passed in the real world.



When they told the Professor of their adventures, he smiled knowingly. "You'll return to Narnia one day," he assured them. "When you least expect it."

And so, the Pevensies waited, carrying Narnia in their hearts, ready for the day they would once again answer its call.

1. **Why did Lucy's siblings initially disbelieve her story about Narnia?**
 - A. They thought she was playing a trick on them.
 - B. They believed the wardrobe was ordinary and could not lead to another world.
 - C. Lucy had a habit of making up stories.
 - D. Edmund told them the wardrobe was locked.
2. **What can you infer about Edmund's character from his meeting with the White Witch?**
 - A. He is brave and loyal.
 - B. He is easily tempted and greedy.
 - C. He does not trust strangers.
 - D. He wants to protect his siblings.
3. **What does the presence of the Beavers suggest about the magical world of Narnia?**
 - A. The animals in Narnia are more intelligent than in the real world.
 - B. The Beavers are secret spies for the White Witch.
 - C. All animals in Narnia can talk and live in houses.
 - D. The Beavers have special powers given by Aslan.
4. **Why does Mr Tumnus change his mind about reporting Lucy to the White Witch?**
 - A. He is afraid of being caught by Lucy's siblings.
 - B. He realises that betraying Lucy would be wrong.
 - C. He does not believe the White Witch is real.
 - D. Lucy offers him protection from the Witch.
5. **What does Edmund's silence about Narnia after his return suggest about his feelings?**
 - A. He regrets meeting the White Witch.
 - B. He is unsure if Narnia was real.
 - C. He feels guilty and wants to hide his actions.
 - D. He is planning to return to Narnia alone.
6. **Why did the Witch give Edmund enchanted Turkish delight?**
 - A. To satisfy his hunger.
 - B. To gain his loyalty and control him.
 - C. To reward him for helping her.
 - D. To show her kindness to humans.
7. **What does the prophecy about the four thrones at Cair Paravel imply?**
 - A. Humans are destined to rule Narnia.
 - B. Aslan will choose new rulers for Narnia.
 - C. The Pevensies must fight each other to become rulers.
 - D. The White Witch is the rightful ruler of Narnia.
8. **What can you infer about Aslan's leadership from his sacrifice?**
 - A. He is willing to make difficult decisions for the greater good.
 - B. He believes Edmund is unworthy of saving.
 - C. He is afraid of the White Witch's power.
 - D. He does not trust the Pevensie children to succeed.
9. **Why does the snow melting signal the end of the Witch's power?**
 - A. The snow is the source of her magic.
 - B. Father Christmas's return brings spring.
 - C. The melting snow represents the arrival of hope and change.
 - D. The Witch's powers depend on the cold weather.
10. **What can you infer about the Professor's reaction to the children's story at the end?**
 - A. He is hiding a secret about Narnia.

- B. He does not believe their story.
- C. He has travelled to Narnia himself.
- D. He is preparing to send them back to Narnia soon.

11. **What does the word "enchanted" most likely mean in the context of the story?**

- A. Delicious
- B. Magical
- C. Forbidden
- D. Dangerous

12. **What does the term "eternal winter" suggest about Narnia under the White Witch's rule?**

- A. The winter never ends.
- B. The snow is very heavy.
- C. The season is cold and gloomy.
- D. The Witch likes cold weather.

13. **What is the meaning of "prophecy" as used in the story?**

- A. A magical object
- B. A prediction about the future
- C. A set of rules
- D. A poem or song

14. **What does the word "treason" mean in the context of Mr Tumnus's actions?**

- A. Helping someone escape danger
- B. Betraying a ruler or country
- C. Telling a lie to someone
- D. Hiding from a dangerous enemy

1. **Answer: B**
Explanation: Lucy's siblings thought the wardrobe was ordinary and could not believe it could lead to another world. They assumed her story was based on imagination rather than fact.
2. **Answer: B**
Explanation: Edmund's actions show he is easily tempted by the Witch's offer of power and the Turkish delight. His greed and desire to be special lead him to make poor choices.
3. **Answer: A**
Explanation: The Beavers' ability to talk and their intelligence suggest that animals in Narnia are more advanced and magical compared to animals in the real world.
4. **Answer: B**
Explanation: Tumnus realises it would be morally wrong to betray Lucy, especially after getting to know her. His conscience guides him to help her instead.
5. **Answer: C**
Explanation: Edmund feels guilty about his encounter with the White Witch and does not want to admit to his siblings what he has done. His silence is a way to hide his guilt.
6. **Answer: B**
Explanation: The Witch uses the Turkish delight to gain Edmund's loyalty and manipulate him. The enchantment makes him crave more, ensuring he remains under her control.
7. **Answer: A**
Explanation: The prophecy indicates that humans, specifically two Sons of Adam and two Daughters of Eve, are destined to rule Narnia and bring about the end of the Witch's reign.
8. **Answer: A**
Explanation: Aslan's willingness to sacrifice himself for Edmund shows his selflessness and dedication to the greater good. It highlights his role as a true leader who values others above himself.
9. **Answer: C**
Explanation: The melting snow represents the arrival of hope, change, and the weakening of the Witch's magic. It symbolises Aslan's influence restoring balance to Narnia.
10. **Answer: A**
Explanation: The Professor's knowing reaction and reassurance that the children will return to Narnia suggest he has his own knowledge or experience of the magical world.
11. **Answer: B**
Explanation: In this context, "enchanted" refers to something magical. The Turkish delight has a spell cast on it, making it irresistible to Edmund.
12. **Answer: A**
Explanation: The term "eternal winter" means that winter never ends in Narnia. It highlights the oppressive and unchanging nature of the Witch's rule.
13. **Answer: B**
Explanation: "Prophecy" refers to a prediction about the future. In Narnia, the prophecy foretells the end of the Witch's reign when the Pevensies take the thrones at Cair Paravel.
14. **Answer: B**
Explanation: "Treason" means betraying a ruler or country. Tumnus's decision to help Lucy instead of following the White Witch's orders is considered treason against her rule.