



Myth & Meaning through the Wardrobe

Course Description

Just as readers step into an unknown world each time they open a new book, so Lucy Pevensie steps into Narnia when she opens the Wardrobe in the Spare Room. Come along with her and with a community of fellow literature-lovers as I guide you through *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. We'll explore the book's historical context; its classic archetypes; some of the source texts from which it draws; how it portrays addiction, betrayal, and restoration; what perspective the narrator offers; how it dramatizes theological points; what timeless virtues animate its characters and plot; and how it interacts with real-world mythology. Through a lively combination of lecture, discussion, and close reading, I'll accompany you and your classmates through an adventurous look at this children's tale as we ask what makes it worth re-reading as an adult, how the author's interactions with earlier works enrich a seemingly simple story, and whether it provides a map for making meaning in our own lives. Come, enter Narnia with me!

Class will meet over Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursday from 4–5 pm eastern time (U.S.)

Class 1—Sept 2

Intros, bio, historical context

Class 2—Sept 4

Group read-aloud of chapters 1–7

“Sometimes Fairy-Stories Say Best What’s to Be Said”

Class 3—Sept 9

Ch. 1: Lucy Looks into a Wardrobe

Ch. 2: What Lucy found There

Class 4—Sept 11

Ch. 3: Edmund and the Wardrobe

Ch. 4: Turkish Delight

Class 5—Sept 16

Ch. 5: Back on This Side of the Door

Ch. 6: Into the Forest

Class 6—Sept 18

Ch. 7: A Day with the Beavers

Ch. 8: What Happened After Dinner

[no class Sept 23 or 25]

Class 7—Sept 30

Group read-aloud of chapters 8–17

Class 8—Oct 2

Ch. 9: In the Witch's House

Ch. 10: The Spell Begins to Break

Class 9—Oct 7

Ch. 11: Aslan is Nearer

Ch. 12: Peter's First Battle

Class 10—Oct 9

Ch. 13: Deep Magic from the Dawn of Time

Ch. 14: The Triumph of the Witch

Class 11—Oct 14

Ch. 15: Deeper Magic from Before the Dawn of Time

Ch. 16: What Happened about the Statues

Class 12—Oct 16

Ch. 17: The Hunting of the White Stag

Wrap-up and reflections

