

The Horse and His Boy Study Guide

The Horse and His Boy by C. S. Lewis

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Overview

The events in *The Horse and His Boy* take place during the era of Narnia's Golden Age, when Peter the High King and Queens Lucy and Susan and King Edmund rule Narnia. It provides the only good look at what the Pevensies were like as grownup rulers, and it offers the only good look at Calormen in "The Chronicles of Narnia."

In *The Horse and His Boy*, two talking horses, a slave boy, and a girl from the Calormene aristocracy flee through Calormen north to the Desert and beyond, in hopes of finding a place where there are no slaves, where talking horses may live without fear of discovery, and where a girl cannot be forced to marry against her will.

About the Author

Clive Staples Lewis was born November 29, 1898, in Belfast, Ireland. As a small child, he decided that he wanted to be called "Jack," perhaps taking the name from a friend's dog. In any case, he was known as Jack to his friends throughout the rest of his life. On April 21, 1905, Lewis and his family moved to a large house named Little Lea.

This house was oddly designed, with the interior walls not matching the exterior walls, so that there were numerous nooks where Lewis and his older brother could get between the walls. In these hidden places, they would play games. The house had rooms that were unused, and in these rooms Lewis would sit with a stack of sandwiches and a stack of books and spend a day working through them. Little Lea became the model for the professor's house in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

Lewis remembered his mother as being somewhat remote, perhaps because she had been seriously ill through much of his early life. She had breast cancer, which was discovered too late for surgery, and medical science of the time had little to offer by way of a cure. On August 23, 1908, she died; Lewis himself was sick at the time and did not understand why she did not check in on him that night. The untimely loss of his mother was a source of grief for him all the rest of his life.

Lewis's father, Albert, was desperately depressed by his wife's death, and it was all he could do to keep up with his work as a solicitor in Belfast, where he was noted for his eloquence. Albert became withdrawn and sad, and he grew remote from his sons, who were also grieving. As was typical for middle-class families of the time, Albert sent his sons away to public schools (they would be called private schools in the United States). Lewis remembered these schools mostly with loathing. The first school he attended was run by a sadistic man who loved beating boys and would do so for no reason at all. Other schools proved equally brutal; at one or two, bullies were allowed to beat up anyone they liked with impunity. It is no wonder that Lewis called these places concentration camps and that he despised most schools throughout his life.

This loathing appears in *Prince Caspian*, in which a girl and a teacher are liberated by Aslan himself from miserable schools.

Lewis blamed his father for his miseries because his father had been the one to send him to these places. However, it was his father who persuaded a favorite, now retired, teacher from his own days in school to tutor Lewis. Perhaps Albert recognized great potential in Lewis that was not being developed in schools. The teacher was William Kirkpatrick, with whom Lewis went to live in 1914. Kirkpatrick was a great logician as well as a great teacher, and he taught Lewis how to reason and how to debate logically; this training would make Lewis into one of the most intimidating public debaters of his day, and it was reflected in his carefully reasoned theology.



Lewis loved Kirkpatrick and drew upon his personality for the characters of Digory Kirke, the professor of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, the boy adventurer of *The Magician's Nephew*, and the kindly man of *The Last Battle*.

Since World War I began in 1914 and Lewis attended college at Oxford in 1917, he found the university was mostly an empty place because most of the students had been drafted into the army. As an Irishman, Lewis was exempt from the draft, but he volunteered to join the army, anyway. England was desperate for troops, especially junior officers, so Lewis went through a quick officer-training program and was sent to the front lines in the fall. While training, he made friends with Paddy Moore, and they made a pact that if one died the survivor would care for the other's family. Lewis's family was not really in need of care. Lewis's older brother, Warnie, had become an officer in the navy and was on his way to a fine naval career, and their father was a successful solicitor. But it was Paddy who was killed, and after the war, Lewis took Paddy's mother and sister into his home. He cared for the mother, called Minto, until her death a couple of decades later.

As an officer, Lewis was himself badly wounded in combat. While standing at the front-line trenches talking with his sergeant, he was injured when a German shell blew apart the sergeant, sending shrapnel and bones through Lewis's body. Lewis would spend the remainder of the war and some months afterward recuperating at hospitals in England. He drew from his experiences in the war for depictions of combat and soldiers in "*The Chronicles of Narnia*." The war experience may have been the source of the terrible nightmares—later called "night terrors"—that plagued Lewis for the rest of his life and which are reflected in the account of the Darkness in *The Voyage of the "Dawn Treader,"* although his mother's premature death may have also been a possible source.

Lewis had decided that there was no God when he was young, perhaps fourteen years old. When he returned to Oxford, he became an outspoken advocate of atheism.

He was an outstanding student and eventually became a member of the faculty, teaching literature to undergraduates. He also helped form a club called the Inklings, which met at his Oxford home. A number of Christians were part of the club, most notably J.R.R. Tolkien, a Roman Catholic.

As Lewis recalled it, at age thirty, he had a moment of revelation while riding a bus; he realized that his arguments against the existence of God were nonsense and logically insupportable. He thereafter believed that there was a God. In 1931, while on a trip with Tolkien and another friend, Lewis had a profound religious experience in which he abruptly became Christian. Lewis later said that he came to this partly from his love of mythology and that he regarded Christianity as the one true myth because Christ's resurrection was historical fact.

During the 1930s, Tolkien would read chapters from the books he was writing, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Tolkien's reworking of ancient northern European mythologies captivated Lewis, and he inspired him in 1938 to begin a book of his own, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.



He worked on this book during World War II. Because the Germans air force was bombing London and other British cities, children were sent from the cities to live in the country, and Lewis took in many of these children. Few of them realized that he was the world-famous C. S. Lewis, who made radio broadcasts about God and religion, and whose writings on religion were read the world over, but they liked him, perhaps because of his kind behavior, perhaps because he told them stories. Some of these stories formed the basis of books in "The Chronicles of Narnia," and the children, especially the girls, taught him much about youngsters' capacity for courage.

After the war, Lewis finished writing *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and he was inspired to write another novel about Lucy, Peter, Susan, and Edmund—the Pevensie children. This book was *Prince Caspian*. In a burst of creativity, Lewis wrote "The Chronicles of Narnia" over a few years, perhaps finishing them, except for revision work, by 1950. In order to maximize sales and thereby profits, his publisher brought out only one volume a year, which allowed Lewis to tinker with the novels a little until the last one was published. At first, some critics and colleagues deplored Lewis's having taken time from his important writings for grownups to write what they considered to be unimportant writings for children, on the premise that all writings for young readers are unimportant. This seems like sheer idiocy given the brilliance of the novels in "The Chronicles of Narnia," but there are still people who believe anything written for young readers is automatically unimportant.

While adults were likely to discount Lewis's books, children loved them. By 1956, Lewis was inundated with letters from children who loved Narnia and wanted to tell him so. He would awaken before dawn just so he could read and reply to letters before breakfast; he tried to send a reply to every child who wrote to him. In the United States, public libraries had to keep several copies of each volume in stock to meet the big demand to check them out. By 1960, people were calling the novels "The Chronicles of Narnia" because they are told in a first-person voice that sounds like a storyteller recounting (chronicling) history for his audience.

During the 1950s, Lewis suffered from a bad heart. He was a heavy drinker and smoked sixty-six cigarettes a day, and the harmful effects of these habits were not as well publicized in those days as they are now. Warnie had retired from the navy and lived with Lewis at the Kilns, Lewis's home in Oxford since 1930. Adding to the physical stress on Lewis was his commuting by train to Cambridge. Lewis's advocacy of Christianity had offended atheists at Oxford University, and his popularity with students and with a large audience of readers made others envious, so he could not get the promotions he deserved. Cambridge University saw an opportunity to add a great literary scholar to their staff and gave Lewis many of the honors he well deserved.

In those days, a train ran directly between the two universities, and Lewis would make the commute both ways many days, although he had sleeping quarters at Cambridge.

Lewis had another reason to be concerned about his heart. He had fallen in love. An American poet, Joy Gresham, twenty years his junior, had fled to England with her two sons to escape a husband who abused them. A generous man, Lewis found Gresham



and her children housing and even paid for the sons' schooling. Gresham could swear as well as any man, which Lewis liked, and she shared his passion for literature. They fell deeply in love but did not at first marry. When Gresham was diagnosed with cancer, Lewis may have felt the desperation that memories of his mother's death from cancer stirred up. Under English law, Gresham had to pay for her own medical care because she was a foreigner; the costs of her care had to have been very high, even for a fabulously successful author such as Lewis. Thus, Gresham and Lewis had a civil wedding ceremony in secret, making her eligible for free medical care in England because she was married to a British subject.

Occasionally in accounts of Lewis's life, one may find the claim that the marriage was one of convenience and that Lewis, who loved his bachelor life, married only for the sake of helping Gresham. This is not true; Gresham's son Douglas recalls his mother and Lewis having a passionate relationship long before the wedding. Lewis had even asked his doctor whether his weak heart could stand having a physical relationship with a woman, and the doctor said yes. Douglas (as cited in A. N. Wilson's *C. S.*

Lewis: A Biography, 1990) states that he witnessed Gresham and Jack's physical affection. They were in love.

When Gresham's cancer went into remission, including the bone cancer, and when her bones recovered their calcium, Lewis was overjoyed, even though he began to suffer from osteoporosis (loss of bone density). For several years, Gresham, the boys Douglas and David, and Lewis lived together at the Kilns. When Gresham fell ill again, and she seemed certain to die, she and Lewis had a hasty religious wedding in the hospital. Gresham recovered enough to take a trip to Greece with Lewis and friends, but she died soon thereafter.

Her death on July 13, 1960, devastated Lewis, who had a crisis of faith that he worked through by writing *A Grief Observed* (1961).

Determined not to become remote from David and Douglas, Lewis included them in his grief. Openhearted and open-minded, he consulted a rabbi about where to buy kosher foods and how to observe David's spiritual needs when David decided he wanted to follow the Judaism of his mother's ancestral father, rather than her actual faith, Christianity. Douglas remembers Lewis with great affection, referring to Lewis as his real father.

Warnie remembered, that in late 1963, Lewis had said that he thought he had done all that God had set for him to do. On November 22, 1963, after writing letters in the morning, Lewis fell in his bedroom and died, probably of heart failure. His death was little noted because the assassination of President Kennedy in the United States also occurred that day and dominated the news for weeks.



Plot Summary

The Horse and His Boy is one of seven novels within the Chronicles of Narnia series C.S. Lewis published in the 1950s. This beautifully written novel follows the adventures of a young boy and his talking horse, as they travel from the desert lands of Calormen to the beauty and magic of Narnia. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia have been highly praised in the fifty years since their inception, and any reader of *The Horse and His Boy* can understand why.

After overhearing the man he calls father agree to sell him to a stranger, the young boy, Shasta, goes into the barn to find comfort among the animals. The stranger's horse is a fine war horse that Shasta greatly admires. Shasta rubs the horse's nose and whispers to him that he wished he could talk. The horse surprises the boy by admitting that he can speak. The horse goes on to tell Shasta how he came from the country of Narnia in the north, and how he would like to go back there. Shasta asks why he does not, and the horse explains that if he left alone, he would only be caught and sent back as a runaway horse. With a rider, however, things would be different.

Shasta hesitates, until the horse tells him how bad things would be with the stranger if Shasta allowed himself to be sold to him. Shasta agrees and, when the two men are asleep, Shasta saddles the horse, and they ride off toward Tashbaan, a large city in the north of Calormen. Along the way, Shasta learns the horse's name is Bree. Shasta also learns that riding a horse is not as easy as riding a mule.

Several nights into their journey, Bree and Shasta come across another rider on the road. Convinced it is a Tarkaan who can have Shasta arrested for stealing Bree, they attempt to outride the other horse and rider. However as they approach a beach nearby, they hear a lion roar. Bree begins to run as fast as he can away from the lion. The other rider does the same. Before they know what has happened, the two riders end up escaping the lion together. It turns out that the other rider is not a Tarkaan, but a young Tarkheena who has run away from home. Her horse, too, it seems is another Talking Horse from Narnia. Bree suggests that they all travel together, and the girl agrees even though Shasta is reluctant.

When the foursome reaches the gates of the city, Tashbaan, they formulate a plan with which to move through the city without attracting too much attention. The children will walk the horses and dress them up to make them appear like pack horses. This is very difficult for the Tarkheena, Aravis, because she belongs to a royal household and should be carried into the city on a litter. However, Aravis agrees to the plan. Once inside the city, the children travel halfway through without a single problem. However, while moved to the side of the street to allow a royal entourage to pass, Shasta is pulled from the crowd by King Edmund of Narnia. The King has mistaken Shasta for Prince Corin of Archenland.

While in the home of the Narnia royals, not only does Shasta get a fine meal, but he learns that the Prince of Calormen is in love with Queen Susan. However, Queen Susan



does not want to marry him and plans to escape on her boat that evening. Shasta also learns of a way through the desert oasis between Calormen and Archenland that will make the trip much more pleasant. Later, while Shasta is alone, the true Prince Corin returns from his adventures on the streets of Tashbaan. Shasta escapes the city and goes to the Tombs of the Ancient Kings where he previously agreed to meet his companions should they be separated.

Shasta is forced to spend a long night alone at the Tombs while his friends are detained in the city. Aravis runs into a friend from her past and learns that her father is in town looking for her. However, her friend comes up with a plan to help her escape through the Tisroc's garden. However, while they are attempting their escape, Aravis and her friend are forced to hide in a small room where the Tisroc and his son are planning a sneak attack on Archenland and Narnia. The Prince wants to retrieve Queen Susan from Narnia, so he decides the best way is to conquer Anvard in Archenland and use it as a jumping point to attack Cair Paravel. The Tisroc agrees and lets his son take two hundred horses. However, the Tisroc warns him if he fails he will claim to have had no knowledge of the planned attack.

When Aravis finally joins her friends, they rush through the oasis so that they can warn King Lune about the impending attack. When they are close to Archenland, Shasta and his companions can see the Prince and his men coming close behind them. They begin to run, hoping to reach Archenland first. Just as they begin to tire, they hear a lion come up behind them. The lion catches up to Hwin and begins to attack Aravis. Shasta jumps off of Bree and goes to Aravis's rescue. Finally they are in a small garden where a Hermit offers them refuge. However, Shasta must leave again to go warn King Lune.

Shasta finds King Lune in time to warn him. However, on the trip to the castle, Shasta is lost. Shasta continues alone and becomes lost in a fog. While he walks, Shasta can feel someone breathing beside him. Finally Shasta asks who is there and Aslan answers him. Aslan tells him that he has been protecting him the entire journey, first pretending to be a fierce lion on the beach to force Shasta and Aravis together, then again at the tombs when a cat slept beside Shasta, and at the gates of the Hermit's home earlier that day. The next day, Shasta also learns that Aslan protected him that night from a sheer drop on the side of the road he followed.

Shasta finds himself in Narnia the next morning. Here he meets up with King Edmund and Queen Lucy as they travel to Archenland in order to aid King Lune. Shasta joins the group with Prince Corin who is anxious to be in the battle. Shasta does not fight well in the battle, though he survives to find that Archenland has won. Shasta also learns in the aftermath of the battle that he is the long lost son of King Lune, a twin to Prince Corin who was stolen as an infant. Shasta is destined to become King. King Lune invites Aravis to live with them at the castle, and she later becomes Shasta's Queen. Bree and Hwin return home to Narnia and live out the rest of their lives with their own long lost families.



Chapter 1, How Shasta Set Out on his Travels

Chapter 1, How Shasta Set Out on his Travels Summary

The Horse and His Boy is one of seven novels within the Chronicles of Narnia series C.S. Lewis published in the 1950s. This beautifully written novel follows the adventures of a young boy and his talking horse as they travel from the desert lands of Calormen to the beauty and magic of Narnia. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia have been highly praised in the fifty years since their inception and any reader of *The Horse and His Boy* can understand why.

Shasta is a young boy who lives with a fisherman he calls father. They live in the country of Calormen, south of Narnia, during the Golden Age in which Peter is still High King and his brother and sisters are King and Queens. Shasta has never been outside his small village and no one ever talks about the countries to the North. One day a stranger comes to their home looking for a place to stay. This stranger is like no one Shasta has ever seen, so when the fisherman sends him away, Shasta hides under the window to listen to their conversation. The stranger asks the fisherman to buy Shasta, saying he needs a new servant. The fisherman, while attempting to push up the price, tells the stranger that Shasta is not his child. He is only a child he found one night in a boat on the river.

Shasta is surprised by this news. It is not so much the news that he will be sold, since Shasta thinks that maybe the stranger will be nicer to him than the fisherman, but that he is not a child of Calormen. Shasta is curious if perhaps he is from the north. Shasta goes to the barn and begins to talk to the stranger's horse, wishing very much that the horse could talk back. To Shasta's surprise, the horse does respond. The horse, Bree, tells Shasta that he is a Narnian horse, stolen when just a colt. Bree says that Shasta does not want to go with the stranger, because he is not a kind man. Then Bree suggests they run away together and go to Narnia.

Shasta agrees. They wait until the two men are asleep. Bree leaves false tracks in the mud by the river to make the stranger believe he has gone south. In reality, Bree and Shasta go north toward the city of Tashbaan because this is the most direct route to Narnia. Shasta has never ridden a horse before, so he does not know how. Bree tells him what to do while making Shasta promise he will never touch the reigns since this is to direct the horse. Bree is not a dumb horse and does not want to be directed.



Chapter 1, How Shasta Set Out on his Travels Analysis

This chapter introduces two major characters. Shasta is the protagonist, the main character whom the reader will follow through the rest of the novel. Shasta is an innocent child who had no idea about the origins of his birth. Shasta is not bitter after a lifetime of abuse from the man he believed to be his father, nor is he upset that the man did not tell him the truth about his birth. This shows elements of Shasta's character that will be important as the novel progresses. Shasta is kind, understanding although he is also uneducated and lacks the manners of a proper upbringing. This two will be important later in the novel.

This chapter also introduces Bree, a talking horse. Bree is from Narnia, though he was stolen from there so long ago, he cannot really remember what it is like. Bree is a prideful horse, proud of his intelligence and a little conceited about his advantages over other horses in Calormen. This pride will cause Bree problems later in the novel and foreshadow certain important events toward the end of the novel.



Chapter 2, A Wayside Adventure

Chapter 2, A Wayside Adventure Summary

Shasta is too sore to move the next morning when Bree wakes him to continue their journey. Bree convinces him to get up and encourages him to eat his breakfast as well. When Shasta looks inside the stranger's saddle bags for food, he finds not only delicious stores of figs and cheese, but he finds money as well. Shasta and Bree have a discussion over whether they should keep this money and Bree decides that since they are captives in a foreign country, they should look at the money as spoils of captivity. Before they can leave that morning, Bree decides he must have a roll in the grass. Bree asks Shasta if he believes that talking horses in Narnia roll in the grass. Bree is greatly concerned about being able to fit in with the horses in Narnia.

The next few days pass without too much excitement. Shasta becomes used to riding the horse, and the slow recovery of his muscles makes his enjoyment of the trip that much better. As they walk, Bree will tell Shasta stories about his time in Calormen, especially the battles he has been in. Shasta enjoys these stories very much.

One night while they are walking down a country road, Bree hears another horse and rider nearby. Afraid it may be a Tarkaan, a member of the upper class, they decide to move down to the beach to avoid detection since Shasta could face jail or even death for the theft of a warhorse. However, when they reach the beach they hear a terrible roar. Bree begins to run, telling Shasta that there is a lion on the beach. As they run, they hear another roar in the forest where the other horse and rider were. Before long, Bree and Shasta find the other rider has come up along side them, also running from the lion. When they finally cross a long river and feel safe on the other side, Shasta and Bree take a good look at the other rider and horse. It turns out to be a young girl and another talking horse from Narnia. They too are running away. Bree suggests they join together, and the other horse, Hwin agrees right away. The girl is reluctant, but she also agrees while Shasta is still unsure.

Chapter 2, A Wayside Adventure Analysis

Bree and Shasta are developing a friendship in this chapter that is characterized by their mutual desire to leave Calormen for the north and to do so safely. The theme of friendship is developed here through conversations while the two try to figure out what is morally right to do with found money. Bree also shows more of his prideful side when he talks to Shasta about his fondness of rolling in the grass. Bree is afraid that talking horses do not do this and that it is something he has picked up from the less intelligent horses of Calormen that will alienate him from the more intelligent horses of Narnia. This pride will be important in later chapters and is therefore foreshadowing.



This chapter also introduces two more important characters. Hwin and Aravis are also runaways trying to reach Narnia. Though the reader does not know much about them at this point, their arrival foreshadows the next chapter in which Aravis tells her story. Also important in this chapter is the appearance of the lion that has essentially force these two groups together. This is also foreshadowing into much later chapters in which a strategy will be revealed.



Chapter 3, At the Gates of Tashbaan

Chapter 3, At the Gates of Tashbaan Summary

Aravis introduces herself and begins to tell her story in the Calormene tradition. Aravis's father is the lord of the province of Calavar and is married to a woman who does not like Aravis. Aravis's stepmother encouraged her father to arrange a marriage for Aravis. This marriage is to be to Ahoshta, soon to be Grand Vizier of Calormen. Aravis is not happy with this arrangement, so she decided she would go into the woods and kill herself. While in the process of this act, Aravis is interrupted by Hwin, whom she did not know could speak until this moment. After a long discussion about Narnia, Aravis and Hwin plan to run away.

Aravis goes to her father and tells him she will take a three day trip to the woods to perform the rites of Zardeenah in order to celebrate her nuptials. The night before she is to go, Aravis gives the servant girl who is to go along a drink that will make her sleep for a full day, therefore stopping her from going. This also will more than likely cause the servant to be beaten, but Aravis shows no remorse due to the fact that she believes the girl is a spy for her stepmother. Aravis also has her father's secretary write a letter to her father that is supposedly from her fiancy and tells him that they met up together during Aravis's trip and married immediately rather than wait. Aravis slips out of the house in the early morning with this letter and Hwin. Once they are some distance away, Aravis arranges for a messenger to take the letter to her father.

The next day the four companions continue their trip together. Bree and Aravis exchange stories about people they have both known. Shasta is a little jealous that they do not include him. As they draw closer to Tashbaan, they begin to discuss how they will get through the city without drawing too much attention. It is decided that Shasta and Aravis will pretend to be peasant children leading pack horses. In order to do this, they buy ragged clothing for Aravis, and they must cut the horse's tail, which they do with Aravis's scimitar, which is very difficult on the horses. Finally, they decide if they should become separated, they will meet on the far side of the city at a place called the Tombs of the Ancient Kings. With all this decided, they make their way to the gates of Tashbaan.

Chapter 3, At the Gates of Tashbaan Analysis

The reader has been given a better idea of who Aravis is in this chapter. Aravis appears to be a spoiled child who would rather kill herself than marry a man of her father's choosing, not to mention the abuse of a slave she has set up to disobey her orders. This latter event will come back to haunt Aravis at the end of the book. The letter, too, will lead to problems for Aravis, foreshadowing the actions of her father in a later chapter as well.



The children devise a plan they hope will get them through Tashbaan without too much trouble. If Shasta is caught with Bree, it is possible he can face death. Therefore, it is very important that they not be caught. This foreshadows the next chapter as they begin to make their way through the city. The reader is held in suspense, wondering if they will be caught or if they will make it through alright. Finally, another bit of foreshadowing remains in the plan to meet at the Tombs should any of the four be separated from the others. This adds to the tension of this section of the plot as the reader wonders if this plan will have to be put into action.



Chapter 4, Shasta Falls in with the Narnians

Chapter 4, Shasta Falls in with the Narnians Summary

When Shasta and his companions enter the city gates, Aravis becomes sad, because she should be entering the gates on a litter like a girl of her stature deserves. Shasta thinks she is being melodramatic. Inside the gates, a guard calls out to them, suggesting that Shasta's master will be mad when he learns Shasta used a saddle horse as a pack horse. Shasta had been afraid they would not be able to mask Bree's status as a warhorse and he was right. However, it seems Bree will pass as a lesser horse, so they should be okay.

Bree leads the way through the city streets even though Shasta pretends to be leading. The streets are dirty and crowded and whenever a person of prestige wants to pass, everyone must squeeze over to the side of the road. This happens several times before they reach the center of town. There, another group comes, this group is from Narnia. Shasta does not have time to get back, so he is at the front of the crowd against the side of the road. While Shasta watches the Narnians go by, one of them grabs hold of him and says that he is a missing member of their party. Shasta does not know what to do, so he goes along with them.

It is King Edmund who has grabbed Shasta out of the crowd believing he is Prince Corin, the prince of Archenland. Queen Susan has been very upset since Prince Corin snuck out of their lodgings the night before. Back at the house, Queen Susan is very happy to see Shasta since she too believes he is Prince Corin. They ask Shasta a lot of questions about where he has been, but Shasta does not respond since he does not know what to say. Finally Mr. Tumnus says Prince Corin must be too overheated and he should rest. Conversation turns to the reason the Narnian royals are in Calormen. They have come because the prince of Calormen, Prince Rabadash wants to marry Queen Susan. However, Queen Susan does not want to marry the prince. King Edmund says that is fine, but he has a secret to reveal.

Chapter 4, Shasta Falls in with the Narnians Analysis

Shasta and Aravis's plan on getting through Tashbaan has succeeded until Shasta is grabbed off the street by King Edmund. This is a turn in the plot that is a total surprise to the reader. The foreshadowing here is the question of why Edmund would mistake this little Calormene boy for a prince from Archenland, especially a boy he must know very well to have him traveling with them. This also adds tension to the plot because now Shasta is separated from his companions, and there is no way of knowing if he will be able to escape and rejoin them on his journey. If Shasta is unable to rejoin his companions, what will happen to them?



The introduction of King Edmund and Queen Susan is a bit of nostalgia for those readers who have read *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. This also develops the plot in another, unexpected direction. The reader who has read that previous novel is aware that Queen Susan and Queen Lucy traveled quite a bit during their time on the throne and that they were made many offers of marriage. However, this offer seems to be unwanted. King Edmund's secret also appears to hold some sinister edge to it if one can judge from Queen Susan's reaction. This foreshadows the next chapter as King Edmund reveals the details of his secret. It also introduces a new character, Prince Rabadash and a small peek at his character. More foreshadowing revolves around this new character and what impact he might have on Shasta and his companions, if any.



Chapter 5, Prince Corin

Chapter 5, Prince Corin Summary

King Edmund reveals that he believes Prince Rabadash will not allow them to leave Calormen without a fight. King Edmund spoke to the prince the day before and got the impression that he meant to have Queen Susan as his wife whether she consented or not. This leads the royals and their entourage to find a secret way of leaving town. It is finally decided that they will invite the prince to a party on their boat the following evening, whose preparation will give them an excuse to load the boat with supplies. Then they will slip away tonight before anyone can figure out what they are planning.

Someone suggests that the prince will attempt to follow them. King Edmund rules out a boat race since the Calormene do not have a boat fast enough to chase their own ship. However, their concern is that the prince will attempt to follow them by taking horses through the desert. This is when Shasta overhears a raven tell of a way through the desert where there is a narrow gorge with trees and a river. Shasta listens closely as he intends to follow this path when he returns to his friends.

Later, everyone leaves the room to have their lunch. Shasta wonders what he should do. Mr. Tumnus comes back into the room with lunch for Shasta, a wonderful lunch full of rich foods. Shasta enjoys the food while Mr. Tumnus talks of all the things they will do when they return to their own part of the world. Then Mr. Tumnus leaves him alone to rest. Shasta falls asleep and wakes at the sound of someone crawling through the window. Shasta finds himself face to face with a little boy who would look just like him if he did not have a black eye. The boy is Prince Corin. Prince Corin says he snuck out to redeem Queen Susan's reputation after a boy spoke ill of her. Prince Corin fought the boy and his big brother. Then the prince bought wine for three members of the Watch who came to arrest him and snuck away when they became drunk. Finally, the prince fought the boy a second time and then climbed into the house through the window. Shasta tells him he must go and asks how to climb out the window. When the prince tells him, Shasta leaves as the prince invites him to visit at Archenland.

Chapter 5, Prince Corin Analysis

King Edmund's description of Prince Rabadash introduces the prince as the antagonist of the story. The prince does not want the Narnians to leave Calormen, because he wants to make Queen Susan his wife, whether this is her wish or not. So the Narnians plan to sneak away. While they make plans, Shasta listens carefully and learns of a better way through the desert for himself and his friends, foreshadowing the next few chapters. This foreshadowing also includes the prince because the reader must realize the writer would not have introduced the possibility of the prince following them back into Narnia if it were not a possibility. Now the reader must assume this will come into the story somehow in a later chapter.



When Prince Corin returns through the window, the reader is introduced to yet another new character. This boy seems to be a rough little boy who is not afraid to get into a fight. Yet he is an honorable person who fought to protect the reputation of his friend, Queen Susan. This also suggests a boy of integrity as well as a friendly boy who was not upset to find a look-a-like sitting in his place. The only moment of tension in the meeting between these two boys is when Shasta suggests the prince lie to his friends. This introduces an element to Prince Corin's character that is somewhat surprising, but refreshing, a young boy who does not lie. Finally, the introduction of Prince Corin further adds to the list of foreshadowing elements in this chapter. Again the reader must ponder why everyone so easily mistook Shasta for this young boy and why they look so much alike.



Chapter 6, Shasta Among the Tombs

Chapter 6, Shasta Among the Tombs Summary

Shasta runs along the rooftops and slips out of the city. Shasta goes straight to the Tombs and is surprised to find his friends have not arrived yet. Shasta walks among each structure, making sure his friends are truly not there. Finally Shasta accepts he is alone and that it is getting dark. Shasta remembers the rumors that ghouls live in the Tombs and becomes afraid. When a cat appears seemingly out of nowhere, Shasta follows it to a quiet spot on the sand just outside the Tombs. Shasta lies down beside the cat and quickly falls asleep. During the night Shasta hears a sound he has never heard before that pulls him from a deep sleep. The cat is gone. Then Shasta hears a cry in the desert. Shasta is afraid but he does not want to go to the Tombs because of the ghouls. Suddenly a large animal appears between him, and the desert where the cries are coming from. Shasta can hear animals running away. Shasta closes his eyes and when he opens them again, the cat has returned.

The next morning, Shasta goes down to the river for food borrowed from a garden, a drink and a bath after marking an arrow in the sand to remind him where the path the raven mentioned begins. Shasta waits at the Tombs all day for his friends to return, all the while wondering where they are and wondering about Prince Corin. Finally Shasta begins to believe that Aravis left without him and that he should go on by himself. Shasta once more collects fruit from the garden by the river and returns to the Tombs to look one more time for his friends. It is then that he sees a servant leading Bree and Hwin toward the Tombs. Shasta hides, trying to decide what to do next.

Chapter 6, Shasta Among the Tombs Analysis

Shasta seems to have found a guardian angel which is symbolized in this cat that has come to protect him during his stay at the Tombs. This is important because it foreshadows an explanation later in the novel where the reader learns who, exactly, the cat is. It is also important because this cat has protected Shasta from being attacked by wild animals, which leads the reader to wonder what important task Shasta may have in front of him that it was important that he not be injured on this night. The next morning, his friends still have not arrived. Again this is foreshadowing for the next chapter where the reader learns what has happened to Aravis and the horses. The theme of friendship is touched on in this section as well as Shasta finds himself wondering about the loyalty he can expect from Aravis. Shasta convinces himself that Aravis has gone on without him, but the writer confesses that Aravis would never have left Shasta no matter what. This is important not only in the fact that it shows more depth to Aravis's character, but that it also reveals the grudging beginnings of a friendship between the two children that will be important in later chapters.



Chapter 7, Aravis in Tashbaan

Chapter 7, Aravis in Tashbaan Summary

Shortly after Shasta was taken away, Aravis takes the reins of both horses and tries to continue the journey herself. However, another royal party comes down the street and Aravis is the one who cannot move quickly enough and ends up in the front of the crowd. The litter contains a girl Aravis knows from parties and such. The girl recognizes Aravis and calls out her name. Afraid of being caught, Aravis jumps onto the girl's litter and closes the curtains, telling the girl to have her servants collect her horses and take her somewhere safe without revealing her identity to anyone. The girl agrees.

The girl is married to a man much like the one Aravis was to marry and his obsessed with her position in society, makeup, parties, and her clothing. Aravis is glad that she ran away since she would not want to be like this girl. The girl tells her that Aravis's father is in town looking for her. Aravis is afraid to leave the girl's house after this news. Aravis asks the girl if she knows a way out of town besides the city gates. The girl says she can get her out through the garden gates at the Tisroc's palace, but it will have to wait to the following night since there is a party this night. Aravis reluctantly agrees. Aravis arranges for one of her friend's servants to take the horses out to the Tombs at sundown the following night and wait for her there. Then Aravis explains the plan to the horses. Bree is worried Shasta will not be there, but understands this is their best option.

The next night the girls arrive at the Tisroc's shortly before sundown and are allowed in since the guard knows Aravis's friend and thinks Aravis is a servant. The girl leads the way through the gardens to the Old Palace that will lead to the gate by the river. While they are walking through a corridor in the Old Palace, the girls hear voices and quickly slip into a dark room to hide. However, it is the wrong place to hide because the door opens shortly after they slip under the edge of a couch, and the Tisroc enters along with Prince Rabadash and Ahoshta, the Grand Vizier and Aravis's betrothed.

Chapter 7, Aravis in Tashbaan Analysis

Aravis is caught just like Shasta, a parallel that leads Aravis to learn her father is in town. It is fortuitous then that she has run into her friends since now she has a better plan of getting out of the city rather than risk being seen by her father or someone who knows who she is. It is also fortuitous in the fact that Aravis can now see what she could have had had she married the Grand Vizier. Aravis is glad she made the choice she has since that is not the lifestyle she wants for herself. However, disaster strikes as they attempt to make their way out of the Old Palace. The arrival of the Tisroc and his son foreshadows the next chapter in which Aravis will be witness to the plans they are making. The reader already knows that the prince has been jilted by Queen Susan and must wonder if this meeting has anything to do with his plans of repercussion. If this is the case, then it also foreshadows the prince's actions in regard to the Narnian royals.



Chapter 8, In the House of the Tisroc

Chapter 8, In the House of the Tisroc Summary

As Aravis listens, the prince begins to tell his father how Queen Susan has left and embarrassed him and how he plans to get her back. Prince Rabadash wants to go to war against Narnia but his father will not allow it. The Grand Vizier attempts to offer some advice through poetry, but the prince kicks him to keep him quiet. The Tisroc does express a desire to conquer Narnia since the idea of a free country so close to his own is unsettling. However, the Tisroc does not feel that a war could be waged successfully at this time. The prince comes up with an idea that could be helpful. The prince says that he could go to Archenland and wage a surprise attack on King Lune. Then he will ride on to Cair Paravel and take Queen Susan without shedding any blood. This plan will help the Tisroc overthrow Narnia, because he will have Archenland, close to the borders of Narnia, to base his camp.

The Tisroc discusses this plan with the Grand Vizier before giving his son his consent. However, the Tisroc tells his son that if he fails or is caught, that he did all this on his own, and the Tisroc had no knowledge. The prince agrees. After the prince leaves to round up his two hundred men, the Tisroc tells the Grand Vizier that he loves his son, but the idea of victory over Archenland and Narnia is more appealing than his worry over the death of his son. The Tisroc has many sons.

Chapter 8, In the House of the Tisroc Analysis

This chapter includes a climactic turn in the plot that reveals a plan that has been foreshadowed through many earlier chapters. Prince Rabadash wants Queen Susan to be his wife so deeply that he has devised a plan in which he will wage war on an innocent country with which Calormen is at peace with in order to give to his father an opportunity to wage war on Narnia. This puts Narnia in danger of a devastating war as well as ruining Archenland beyond repair. Shasta has been connected to Archenland in some unexplained way through his strikingly similar appearance to the prince of Archenland. Therefore, the reader must wonder what impact this battle will have on Shasta's immediate future and distant future as well. The end of the chapter in which the Tisroc speaks of his desire for this plan to succeed also foreshadows future chapters as it puts pressure on Prince Rabadash to succeed. It also suggests that he might not and that his life is not worth much to his own father, further showing the shallow depths of his personality.



Chapter 9, Across the Desert

Chapter 9, Across the Desert Summary

After the Tisroc leaves, Aravis has to persuade her friend to continue on their plan to help Aravis escape through the garden gate since her friend is now afraid of being caught. The girl reluctantly agrees, however, and Aravis is able to make it to the Tombs where the servant waits with Bree and Hwin. Aravis sends him back to the city and is relieved when Shasta steps out from behind one of the structures in the Tombs.

Aravis tells Shasta and the horses about the plan she overheard, and they all agree that they must get to Archenland first in order to warn the king. Shasta tells them about the route he heard the raven describe, and they all agree that it is the best way. Bree says the children must walk when the horses walk in order to conserve their energy as they cross the desert. It is agreed, and they begin their journey. Through the night, the ride is quiet and peaceful. However, when the sun comes up Shasta can no longer walk because the sand is too hot for his bare feet. It becomes so hot that all four of the companions become exhausted and thirsty, anxious to arrive at the gorge the raven spoke of. However, it seems they will never reach it. They stop once to rest and eat, then continue their journey.

Finally Shasta sees the gorge in the distance. The horses quickly turn toward it. When they enter the outcropping of rocks, the heat is intensified. However, they quickly come into a more open area where they find a small river. Instantly they all come alive, jumping into the water and drinking their fill. Later they lay down to rest for a moment, not meaning to fall asleep. However, after riding all day and night, they are all exhausted and quickly fall into a deep sleep. Aravis wakes first and urges the others to wake. Bree is reluctant to continue the journey, until they're sure that they are far ahead of Prince Rabadash and his army. The children and Hwin urge him to hurry anyway, so after a quick snack they begin again, slowly.

Chapter 9, Across the Desert Analysis

Shasta knows now that he must get to King Lune quickly in order to warn him about the attack coming his way. However, the trip across the desert is very hard, which explains why the Tisroc is reluctant to wage war against Narnia. With a base at Archenland, the Tisroc will have a much better advantage than the one he is currently facing. When Shasta and his companions arrive at the river, they accidentally fall asleep and lose time. This and Bree's reluctant to hurry the next morning foreshadows events in the next chapter when Shasta and his companions discover Prince Rabadash is closer than they originally thought.



Chapter 10, The Hermit of the Southern March

Chapter 10, The Hermit of the Southern March Summary

Shasta and his companions travel for several more hours when they come to the northern bank of the Winding River, which Bree recognizes, they realize they are in Archenland and pause to celebrate for a moment. However, behind them they see a dark cloud rising and realize it is Prince Rabadash and his men entering the gorge. The horses begin to race, attempting to reach King Lune's castle before the prince. Before they have been running for long, they hear a lion approaching them from behind. The horses pick up speed, but it is not enough for Hwin. The lion catches up to her and begins nipping at her hoofs. Then the lion reaches up over Hwin and scratches Aravis's back. Shasta sees this and urges Bree to stop, but Bree does not hear him. Shasta jumps off the horse and races back to Hwin and Aravis just as a gated garden comes into view. Shasta distracts the lion while Bree, Hwin, and Aravis race into the garden. Finally Shasta runs in behind them.

There is a man in the garden. Shasta tells him that he needs to warn King Lune of the oncoming attack. The man, a hermit, points Shasta in the right direction and tells him he better leave at once. Then the hermit goes into the house to care for Aravis. Aravis has been scratched by the lion, but the wounds are not deep. The hermit allows Aravis to rest while he goes to care for the horses, giving them each a well deserved rubdown. The next day Aravis is sufficiently recovered from her wounds to visit with the horses. Aravis finds Bree depressed. Bree does not want to go to Narnia now, because he was more afraid for himself when the lion appeared than for Aravis, Hwin or Shasta. Shasta had to save the day and that upsets Bree's pride deeply. The hermit tells him not to be so conceited and then offers everyone breakfast.

Chapter 10, The Hermit of the Southern March Analysis

Upon the appearance of Prince Rabadash and his army, Shasta and his companions know they must move quickly in order to warn King Lune in time. However, they are chased by a lion and Aravis seems to be nearly killed in the attack. Although Aravis's wounds turn out to be superficial, the drama with the lion is significant to the rest of the story. The lion could have killed Aravis with one slap of its paw or with its powerful jaws but does not. The lion also could have turned its fury on Shasta when he jumps from the horse to protect the girls, but does not. This is foreshadow that should leave the reader wondering why these things did not happen. The theme of friendship is also revisited here. Shasta risks his own life in order to save Aravis. This shows how their rivalry has



grown into a friendship that is very deep on Shasta's part. Shasta did not have to think about saving Aravis, he simply did what was needed. This is the basic definition of a true friendship.

This chapter again visits Bree's pride. Bree is afraid that, because he did not turn to help Hwin and Aravis, that he has proven himself a coward. However, the Hermit tells Bree that he is acting conceited, and the best way for him to get along is to stop thinking he is a special horse. Bree is not special in Narnia like he was in Calormen, and it is best that he remember that fact. This touches on the theme of Christian parallels, when the reader recalls that pride is a sin that most Christian faiths preach against.



Chapter 11, The Unwelcome Fellow Traveler

Chapter 11, The Unwelcome Fellow Traveler Summary

Shasta runs for a long time before he comes upon a hunting party. When the members of the party see him, one steps forward and addresses him as Prince Corin, once more mistaking him for the other boy. Shasta quickly corrects the man and asks for King Lune. The man says he is King Lune so Shasta tells him about the attack that is on its way. The king orders a horse for Shasta and leads the party back toward the castle. However, Shasta is not sure how to use the reigns and since this is an ordinary horse, he cannot lead it. Shasta quickly falls to the back of the pack and when a fog falls, Shasta is quickly lost.

At a fork in the road, Shasta pauses to decide which to take. Shasta can hear the approach of Prince Rabadash and his men, so he quickly chooses the right-hand road. Shasta can hear Rabadash address his troops and is relieved to hear him also chose the other road. Shasta travels for a long time, afraid to turn back but unsure where he is going. At some point in the night, still lost in the fog, Shasta becomes aware that someone or something is walking beside him. Shasta finally addresses this creature and discovers Aslan has come to walk beside him. Aslan asks Shasta to tell him his problems. When Shasta is done, Aslan tells Shasta that he was the lion in the wood who forced Shasta and Aravis to meet, that he was the cat in the desert that saved him from the jackals, and that it was Aslan who attacked Aravis, giving her an injury she deserved but refusing to say why. The fog rolled away, and the sun began to rise. Shasta finally is able to see Aslan for a moment before he disappears into the morning mist.

Chapter 11, The Unwelcome Fellow Traveler Analysis

Shasta reaches the king in plenty of time. Again someone mistakes him as Prince Corin, which again is foreshadowing into the mystery of Shasta's origins, as well as touching on the theme of secret origins. The king rushes back to his castle in order to prepare it for battle and Shasta is left behind by accident. Shasta continues on alone, taking the road opposite to the one everyone else has apparently taken. This leaves Shasta to come into contact with Aslan. As Aslan tells Shasta how many times he has been at his side during this trip the reader is reminded of the theme of Christian parallels. There is a poem about a man asking God why sometimes he walks beside him and why at times he leaves the man to walk alone. God answers that the man is not alone, that God was carrying him through the rough patches in his life. This chapter brings that poem to mind as Aslan explains to Shasta that he has truly never been alone and that he, Aslan, a symbolic version of God in this novel, has been there to protect him every time he felt it was necessary. This passage also satisfies foreshadowing that has been peppered

throughout the novel, especially within the scenes that Aslan mentions. This also foreshadows an explanation as to why Aslan felt the need to injure Aravis.



Chapter 12, Shasta in Narnia

Chapter 12, Shasta in Narnia Summary

At first Shasta believes it was a dream until he sees a large paw print on the ground. The print fills with water and Shasta drinks from it. Then Shasta looks around and realizes he is in Narnia. When he runs into Hedgehog, Shasta tells him what is happening in Archenland. The Hedgehog does not seem interested in helping Shasta, but introduces him to a dwarf and a stag who are. The Stag runs off, promising to tell the people at Cair Paravel what is happening. Meanwhile, the dwarf takes Shasta home for breakfast, where, after a delicious meal, Shasta falls asleep.

Shasta awakes to the sound of trumpets. King Edmund, Queen Lucy, and an entourage have stopped at the dwarf's cabin on their way to Archenland. Among their entourage is Prince Corin who sees Shasta and is quite happy with the meeting. Prince Corin wants to fight in the battle and he hopes to persuade King Edmund. However, instead of convincing the king, Prince Corin gets into a fight with his guardian, a dwarf named Thornbut, and causes Thornbut to sprain his ankle. Prince Corin then dresses Shasta up in Thornbut's armor and joins the group, staying to the back so no will notice them till it is too late to stop them from fighting.

Chapter 12, Shasta in Narnia Analysis

Shasta has finished his assigned duty to warn everyone possible about the attack on Archenland. However, Shasta did not plan on joining the fight and is surprised, when Prince Corin talks him into it. Shasta is now on his way to battle even though he does not even know how to put the armor on. This foreshadows the next chapter, when Shasta becomes involved in the fight. Also foreshadowed is Shasta's secret origin, another theme of the novel. Shasta has no idea where he comes from, although his coloring would suggest he comes from the North. Shasta looks a lot like Prince Corin of Archenland, which is in the north. The reader must now wonder if Shasta's origins might have something to do with the royal family at Archenland.



Chapter 13, The Fight at Anvard

Chapter 13, The Fight at Anvard Summary

Prince Corin is successful in his bid to hide from King Edmund until they arrive at the battle. Prince Corin immediately joins the fight, leaving Shasta with no choice but to join as well. Shasta cannot get his sword out of his scabbard and, when he does, it is knocked out of his hands. Shasta is then knocked off his horse where he knocks his knuckles against someone's armor and hides under the horse.

The hermit has a magic pool in which he, and the horses and Aravis watch the battle. When the Narnians arrive, they find the Calormene's trying to knock down the door to the castle with a battering ram. When the Archenlanders see the Narnians and that the Calormene's have turned to fight the Narnians and have abandoned the battering ram, they leave the castle. The Calormene are attacked from both sides. King Edmund finds Prince Rabadash and begins a sword fight with him. Quickly the Calormene begin to become overwhelmed and all their horses are either dead or run off so they cannot retreat. The battle ends quickly.

When Shasta realizes the action has slowed, he stands and looks around himself. The Calormene have clearly been beaten. Prince Rabadash himself hangs from a hook on the side of the castle wall where a tear in his armor became hooked while he was fighting King Edmund. King Lune decides to take the prince prisoner rather than have him killed. Then Prince Corin brings Shasta to his father who stands the two boys side by side for all to see and asks if perhaps there could be any question. Shasta does not know what he means.

Chapter 13, The Fight at Anvard Analysis

The fight is a dangerous one for Shasta who does not know how to participate in such a battle. However, he manages to survive as the Archenlanders and Narnians defeat the Calormene. This is a climactic scene in the novel because it takes all the foreshadowed episodes in previous chapters and answers them with one major scene. Archenland is safe now, thanks in part to Shasta, and Narnia is also safe from attack by Calormen. Prince Rabadash is taken as a prisoner, which is kind of King Lune as well as one more bit of foreshadowing into the question of his future. Also foreshadowed here is the answer to Shasta's resemblance to Prince Corin. Clearly the king is aware of something the reader does not know and will hopefully reveal it in the next chapter.



Chapter 14, How Bree Became a Wiser Horse

Chapter 14, How Bree Became a Wiser Horse Summary

Back at the hermit's home, Hwin is anxious to move on to Narnia. Aravis is also anxious to go, wishing to see Shasta and say their goodbyes. Bree however is still reluctant to move on and Hwin guesses it is because his tail has not grown out after the cut Aravis and Shasta gave it. Bree makes a comment about a lion and Hwin asks why. Bree tells her about Aslan and as they discussing him, Aslan appears.

Aslan tells Aravis that he injured her during their run to the hermit's garden, because she caused a servant girl in her father's house to be beaten. Aslan wanted her to feel the pain that girl felt. Then Aslan leaves again as a messenger comes to the gate to announce Prince Cor of Archenland has come to visit. They allow the prince to come inside and discover it is Shasta. Shasta has learned that he is Prince Corin's twin. As an infant, the king learned that Cor would save Archenland someday. An enemy of the king's wanted to prevent this, so he took Cor onto a ship and ran away. The king gave chase, but when he caught up to the ship, the baby had been taken away by a sailor. The king never learned what happened to the baby or the sailor until he met Shasta. It appears that Shasta returned to Archenland just in time to save it, as the prophecy predicted. Then Shasta tells Aravis that the king has invited her to come live with them at the castle. The four companions say goodbye to the hermit and leave for the castle. Bree pauses to roll in the grass one last time, still afraid talking horses do not do such things.

Chapter 14, How Bree Became a Wiser Horse Analysis

Aslan appears to Aravis and the horses in order to tell Aravis that he scratched her as payback for the servant she allowed to be beaten. Aravis accepts this fact and attempts to learn the fate of the servant girl, but Aslan will not reveal it. This episode is symbolic again of the theme of Christian parallels in which Aslan, once again a symbolic version of the Christian God, has appeared to one of his disciples to explain his displeasure in her behavior so she might not repeat it. Aslan also expresses his affection for Aravis through this meeting, just as the Christian God might do under the same circumstances.

Shasta's revelation that he is Prince Corin's twin is the satisfaction of the foreshadowing surrounding his birth, which also satisfies the theme of secret origins by revealing how Shasta happened to end up in a river in Calormen. This revelation also foreshadows events in the next chapter in which Shasta learns more about his birthright. The invitation to Aravis to come live with him at Archenland also foreshadows their future relationship that is also revealed in the final chapter.

Bree once again allows his pride to show and is chastised by Aslan in mild way for it. Bree is afraid to go to Narnia, but because of the visit from Aslan and the words of the hermit from an earlier chapter, Bree is ready to try. His pride has diminished somewhat and is replaced with uncertainty and doubt in his own ability to fit in. However, Bree is going, which is the most important lesson he could have learned. This touches on the theme of Christian parallels as again Bree learns that pride is not a Christian emotion and that he is better off leaving it behind, which is what he has done.



Chapter 15, Rabadash the Ridiculous

Chapter 15, Rabadash the Ridiculous Summary

At King Lune's castle, there is a huge feast to celebrate Prince Cor's return and the successful battle. Aravis is introduced to everyone and Queen Lucy tells her about the rooms she has just completed preparing for her. Conversation turns to the fate of Prince Rabadash. King Edmund believes he should be put to death but King Lune is reluctant. King Lune has Prince Rabadash brought out to the feast and tells him that he will grant him clemency under certain conditions. The prince refuses to listen and is very disrespectful. Suddenly Aslan appears and addresses the prince. Prince Rabadash still will not listen. Aslan casts a spell on the prince that transforms him into a donkey.

Aslan tells Prince Rabadash he will be provided transport back to Tashbaan. Once there he must go to the temple of Tash during the Autumn feast and his donkey form will vanish. However, if Prince Rabadash goes further than ten miles outside the gates of Tashbaan, the donkey form will return. The writer skips ahead here to tell the reader that Prince Rabadash does as he is told and becomes human once more. When the prince becomes Tisroc, he becomes the most peaceful Tisroc the country has ever known, because he cannot leave the city limits and he will not send his armies to battle alone.

After Rabadash is dealt with, Aslan leaves. The party begins in earnest soon after, with stories being told over good food, especially Queen Lucy's story of how she and her siblings came to this world through a wardrobe. Later, King Lune suggests the young people should go to bed and tells Prince Cor he will show him the estates the next day since one day he will be king over it all. Prince Cor objects, suggesting the kingdom should go to Corin. However, Cor is the first born and Corin does not want to be king. Prince Cor soon adjusts to his new life, becoming close with his brother although they often have fights between themselves. Prince Cor often argues with Aravis as well. However, these fights must not be bad fights because Prince Cor marries Aravis and makes her his Queen. Bree and Hwin continue to be friends with Cor and Aravis, often visiting them in Archenland.

Chapter 15, Rabadash the Ridiculous Analysis

The final bit of foreshadowing has been satisfied with Rabadash's transformation into a donkey. Aslan's restrictions of Rabadash's return to human form has caused an evil person to become quieter and wiser, keeping him from waging wars just for the sake of the battle. Shasta learns here that he will be king someday and is not happy at the news at first. Shasta feels his brother deserves it more than he and is humbled by the very idea. However, Prince Corin is happy that his brother will take the role he does not want and King Lune is happy to have his child back under any circumstances. All has turned out well for Shasta in this final chapter, wrapping all the loose ends up in a symbolic fairy tale ending. There are many morals to this novel, which is unusual in story of this



type. The most important moral here seems to be that good things happen to people who believe and live a righteous life and nothing good will come to people who do not. This moral also touches on the Christian parallels that are such a major theme in the entire novel, in regards to the fact that many Christian stories have the same type of moral included in their plots.



Characters

Shasta or Cor

Shasta is a young, blond boy who has grown up in a fishing village in the country of Calormen, south of Narnia. Shasta has always believed the fisherman he lives with is his father. However, when the novel opens, Shasta overhears his father telling a Tarkaan that he is not his son. The fisherman found Shasta in a boat on the river, when he was just an infant. The fisherman took him in and called him son. However there is no love lost between the boy and the fisherman since the fisherman has agreed to sell Shasta to the Tarkaan as a servant. Shasta is so distraught that he goes into the barn to talk to the animals. Shasta thinks that maybe things will be better with the Tarkaan, that perhaps he will be kinder than the fisherman. However, the Tarkaan's horse assures him that the Tarkaan is not a kind man and will not treat Shasta well.

Shasta does not want much out of the world. Shasta does not even wonder who his real parents might be, when he learns the truth about his relationship with the fisherman except to wonder if he comes from the North where Bree tells him the people look more like him than they do in Calormen. Survival is much more important to Shasta than learning about such trivial things. Shasta runs away with the horse partly, because he does not want to be a slave and partly because the horse needs him. Shasta has never been needed before. This begins a friendship that will endure all of Shasta's life.

While on his adventure, Shasta meets a girl above him in class who so angers him that he would just as soon not have her along. Shasta also meets a young boy who looks exactly like he does. Shasta wonders if perhaps his people come from the same area where this other boy is from. Finally Shasta learns the truth that he is really Prince Cor, and his biggest concern is that they will force him to get an education. However, this all leads to a happy ending, when Shasta becomes king and makes Aravis, the girl he so hated, when he first met her, his queen.

Bree

Bree is a large warhorse who belongs to the Tarkaan who wants to buy Shasta in the first chapter. Bree was stolen from Narnia, when he was a colt and has always wanted to go back there. Bree can talk, but he is afraid to speak in front of the humans, because he knows they will cause him great trouble if they know. Bree, therefore, has picked up traits from the dumber horses with which he has lived all these years in order to fit in with them. Bree worries that these habits will cause him to not fit in with the talking horses, when he returns to Narnia.

Bree is a noble horse with many qualities of prideful men. Bree wants everyone to be aware of how smart he is, though he is smart enough to know this is dangerous. Bree spends a large part of his time with Shasta and the others talking about the wars he has



been in and telling them how they should conduct their adventure. Bree is the type of horse that takes charge of everything and takes all the glory most willingly. However, when the lion attacks Hwin and Aravis, Bree does not turn around to help. Shasta instead is the one who jumps in and fights the lion off. Bree is very upset about this and refuses to return to Narnia as he had planned. Bree is afraid the other talking horses will learn of his disgrace and he will not be accepted. Aslan comes to Bree and tells him that it is alright to make a mistake and that he should not let his pride rule his emotions. Bree finally understands and agrees to go home again. From that moment there after, Bree is less prideful.

Aravis

Aravis is a young Tarkheena, the daughter of the Lord of the province Calavar. Although very young, Aravis has been promised in marriage to another member of the royalty who is at least fifty years old. Aravis cannot stand the idea of this marriage and tried to kill herself in protest. However, her horse Hwin stopped her and talked her into running away. Aravis arranged to go on a spiritual trip by herself, drugging a servant girl who was supposed to join her so that she would sleep through their departure time. It is shortly into this trip that Aravis meets Shasta and Bree.

Aravis is a strong willed child with good breeding who rubs Shasta all wrong, when they first meet. Like most boys and girls of their young age, Shasta and Aravis do not know how to express their feelings for each other so they express them with angry words. However, they are both grateful for the other's company. Aravis is also an intelligent girl who can think on her feet. Aravis manages to stop a friend from revealing her presence in Tashbaan by jumping onto her litter and convincing the girl to help her. The girl does, although the two of them nearly get caught by the Tisroc in the process. It is during this adventure that Aravis learns of the plot to attack King Lune and Archenland, and enables Shasta to save his father's kingdom from certain ruin. Aravis and Shasta become close friends by the end of the novel and Lewis even reveals that when they are grown, Shasta, who has become king, makes Aravis his queen.

Hwin

Hwin is another talking horse that was stolen from Narnia as a filly. Hwin is a gentle horse who has great concern for all those around her, an almost motherly love that causes her to reveal her ability to speak, when Aravis attempts suicide. Hwin is not the type of horse to make big decisions and is more comfortable leaving that sort of thing to others. Hwin does offer comfort to those around her, often being the first to speak to Bree, when he falls into a prideful depression. Hwin is also a capable horse who makes the journey through the oasis as well as Bree, without the prideful concerns Bree carries, such as not wanting to go to Narnia until his tail grows out. The children cut both their tails, when they entered Tashbaan, to make them look more like pack horses.



Prince Corin

Prince Corin is the young prince of Archenland. The Prince is traveling with King Edmund and Queen Susan because their two countries are good friends and Queen Susan enjoys Prince Corin's company. While in Calormen, Prince Corin sneaks out of the house where the Narnian royals are staying to avenge Queen Susan's name on the streets of Tashbaan. Queen Susan is very upset until King Edmund finds the prince on the streets of Tashbaan. However, the child he has brought back is not the prince, but Shasta who happens to look very much like the prince. When the prince later returns to the house, he is surprised to find Shasta there. Shasta, however, is not sure the two even look alike since Prince Corin has a black eye at the time. Later, when Shasta runs into Prince Corin again, it is while the Narnians are on their way to the battle at Anvard. Prince Corin talks Shasta into joining the group and fighting in the battle with him. Shasta is afraid, but Prince Corin fights with great valor. It later turns out that Shasta is Prince Corin's older twin, Cor. Prince Cor will become King while he and Corin develop a normal sibling relationship that makes them both happy.

King Edmund and Queen Susan

King Edmund and Queen Susan are two of the children from the first published book in the Narnia series, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. This novel takes place during the time of their reign. Just as the end of their novel suggested, the two royals often travel the other countries of this magical world and Queen Susan is offered many proposals for her hand in marriage. One such proposal has come from the Prince of Calormen which is why they are visiting Tashbaan. However, Queen Susan is not in love with the prince and would like to refuse his offer. However, King Edmund is worried that if she does this, the prince will take them all prisoner and force her into an unhappy marriage. King Edmund and Mr. Tumnus, another character from the previous book, come up with a plan where they will pretend to be having a party on their boat the following night and instead they will load their ship and leave that very night. This disappearance act causes the prince great anguish and he vows to go to Narnia and force Queen Susan to return as his wife.

King Lune

King Lune is King of Archenland. King Lune is also Shasta's father, a fact Shasta will learn in the final chapters of the novel. King Lune is a kind king who is good friends with the children who have become the rulers of Narnia. Archenland lies between Calormen and Narnia, which is why the prince of Calormen decides to attack Archenland before going on to Narnia in order to retrieve Queen Susan, the woman he would like to make his wife. The Prince believes that if he attacks Archenland first, it will give him and his men a place to station themselves during the attack on Narnia and make it easier for the Tisroc to attack Narnia later. When King Lune learns of this plan, he immediately returns to his castle and fortifies it to ward off the attackers. The prince, not deterred by his lack of surprise, continues to fight late into the morning until the group from Narnia arrives



and wins the fight. King Lune also plays a big role at the end of the novel as regards to Shasta. It turns out that King Lune is Shasta father, a fact that everyone has suspected since meeting Shasta except for Shasta himself. When Shasta learns the truth, he is happy to be accepted into a loving family that is much different from his childhood in Calormen.

Arsheesh

Arsheesh is the fisherman who raised Shasta. Arsheesh is not a kind man. Arsheesh saw Shasta in the water on a night, when he could not sleep and rescued him from the boat. However, Arsheesh raised Shasta in order to serve him. Shasta spends his childhood cooking and cleaning for Arsheesh, never attending school or spending time with other children his own age. If things are not done to Arsheesh's liking, Shasta suffers the consequences. Arsheesh never tells Shasta directly how he came to live in the fishing hut. Shasta overhears this story while he is listening to Arsheesh attempt to haggle a large price for him with a Tarkaan who wants him as a servant boy. Shasta never thinks twice about Arsheesh once he leaves his house.

The Hermit

The Hermit is a kind man who lives alone in a cottage in the outer borders of Archenland. Readers of *The Magician's Nephew* will recognize the Hermit's garden as the same garden in which Digory retrieved the magic apple that he planted in Narnia at Aslan's request. An apple from this second tree is the one that saved Digory's mother's life and grew the tree from which the wardrobe in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* was built. The Hermit takes care of Aravis after she is clawed by the lion and urges Shasta to warn King Lune about the approaching attack. The Hermit has a magic pool in his garden from which he allows Aravis, Hwin, and Bree to watch the battle at King Lune's castle.

Aslan

Aslan is a large lion who is the King and Lord of the world in which Narnia exists. Aslan is protector of all the creatures of this world. Aslan appears in this novel as a manipulator of situations and a protector of Shasta. Aslan manipulates relationships in this novel by convincing Shasta and Bree as well as Hwin and Aravis that he is a wild lion that is looking for a meal. Through their fear of being attacked, this two sets of horse and riders come together to continue their travels in one group. If not for the lion attack, these two may have avoided meeting each other and would not have successfully teamed up. Aslan later appears as a cat to Shasta the night he is forced to spend the night alone next to the tombs. Later, when Shasta is walking between Archenland and Narnia, Aslan appears to help Shasta and to keep him from falling off the edge of the cliff where he walks. Finally Aslan appears at the end of the novel in

order to help Bree get over his prideful depression and to punish the Calormene Prince for his attack on King Lune's castle.



Objects/Places

Calormen

Calormen is the desert country where the novel begins.

Tashbaan

Tashbaan is a major city in Calormen where the Tisroc, or king, lives. This is where Shasta meets King Edmund, Queen Susan, and Prince Corin.

Archenland

Archenland is the neighboring country to Narnia. Archenland sits between the desert oasis, Calormen, and Narnia. Archenland is the country where Prince Cor, or Shasta, is Prince and will one day be King.

Cair Paravel

Cair Paravel is a four throne castle where High King Peter, King Edmund, Queen Susan, and Queen Lucy rule.

Anvard

Anvard is the city in Archenland where the king lives.

Tombs of the Ancient Kings

The Tombs of the Ancient Kings is a set of tombs outside the walls of Tashbaan where Shasta and his companions agree to meet should they be separated inside the city's walls. Shasta has to spend a night alone here.

House of the Tisroc

The house of the Tisroc is where the ruler of Calormen lives. It is here that Aravis and her friend are trapped on their way to escape through the gardens.



The Hermit's House

The Hermit's house is where Shasta, Bree, Hwin, and Aravis find themselves after running from what they thought was a wild lion and turned out to be Aslan.

The Hermit's Magic Pool

The Hermit has a pool in his garden in which he can watch what is happening in distant places. This is where the Hermit, Bree, Hwin, and Aravis watch the battle at Anvard.

Litter

A litter is a small platform with curtains surrounding it on which people of royal stature are carried through the streets of Tashbaan.



Setting

Much of *The Horse and His Boy* takes place in Calormen. Back in year 180 of Narnia's existence, Prince Col, the younger son of King Frank and Queen Helen, founded the mountain kingdom of Archenland, just south of Narnia and just north of the Desert.

In the year 204, some Archenlanders migrated to the south of the Desert and founded Calormen, a nation that enjoys a warm climate. The farmlands are bountiful and Calormenes ship their fruits and vegetables throughout most of the world. However, Calormene society is based on war, not farming. Sometime in their history, these descendants of Narnia and Archenland invented a pantheon of gods, with the demon Tash as the chief god, and they came to loath and fear Aslan.

Among the evils that Calormen visits on the rest of the world are war and slavery.

The size and shape of Calormen must change often during its history because it is usually at war with its neighbors; Calormen has become a large empire through conquest.

The talking horse Bree tells a little about the battles in which he has fought against nations and city-states to the south and southwest of Calormen. It is because Calormen expands through conquest that warriors are exalted over other people, and it is because successful generals are the most esteemed of all that Tisrocs—the kings of Calormen—fear their best generals, even when the generals are their own sons.

In Calormen, women are merely property, to be exchanged among men. Thus, even though Aravis is the daughter of a rich aristocrat and enjoys many comforts, she has no choice in the person she is to marry.

As few rights as women have, the slaves have even fewer. In *The Voyage of the "Dawn Treader,"* Caspian discovers slavery in his province, the Lone Islands, and when he puts an end to the vile practice, he is warned that Calormen may start a war because of his actions. Calormen imports slaves apparently from anywhere it can; in *The Last Battle*, one of the first things the Calormenes do is begin shipping Narnians as slaves to work in Calormen's mines in the western mountains. It is this trade in slaves that allows a nobleman to assume that he can buy Shasta from his supposed father, simply because Shasta's hair is fair and makes him look like a northerner rather than the son of a local fisherman.

Shasta, Aravis, Bree, and Hwin travel from southern Calormen through hills, woodlands, and farmlands. Some areas are still wild, with lions on the prowl. Others are densely populated. Calormen has a vigorous economy and trade cities at crossroads tend to be well populated. The capital city of Calormen is Tashbaan, located on a large island in the middle of the river that winds between the fertile lands of the south and the desert of the north. Tashbaan is a mountain island, with houses and palaces rising on terraces along the mountain's sides.



Roads weave around the mountain, and the only traffic rule seems to be that those of lower classes must get out of the way of upper classes. The docks from which Susan, Lucy, Edmund, and other Narnians escape are along the southern side of Tashbaan.

Shasta spends a night in an area to the northeast of Tashbaan, among the huge hivelike tombs of ancient kings. Lewis does not explain who these kings were, but their tombs seem to be respected by the Calormenes. It is among these tombs that Shasta is visited by a golden cat who keeps him company and allays his superstitious fears. Beyond the tombs is the Desert, an expanse of arid land with only one known oasis. If it were not for Bree's skills at traveling under duress, Shasta, Aravis, and Hwin may not have survived the trek north to Archenland.

Archenland spans east to west, the mountains along the southern edge of Narnia, and the northern edge of the desert. Winding Arrow River supplies the region with water. "The Chronicles of Narnia" tell of only one war in Archenland—the one told in *The Horse and His Boy*. Apparently, Archenland has known mostly peace and prosperity, even when Narnia has been at war or was in the grip of the one-hundredyear winter imposed by the White Witch. It is a place regarded as a safe haven for good people; in Prince Caspian, it is the place to which the prince tries to flee for protection from his uncle Miraz.



Social Sensitivity

Much of *The Horse and His Boy* is concerned with dignity. Much of Shasta's journey from his fisherman's home to Anvard involves his learning his own self-worth and earning the respect of others. For Aravis, the process is somewhat more complex.

Hers is a culture in which women are commodities, pieces of property to be indulged, mistreated, and traded at the wishes of fathers and husbands. Aravis prays to a female deity for help, apparently not realizing that if women can be traded among men, the deity has been a very ineffective protector of women. Her rebellion is motivated in part by the man her father has chosen for her—the chief advisor to the Tisroc. To Aravis, the man is a sniveling sycophant and he is too old for her. How women are treated in Calormen may seem alien to some young readers, but there have been and still are cultures in which women were and are entirely circumscribed by what men said they could and could not do, and Lewis is very likely entirely conscious of this as he describes Aravis's life, and he plainly prefers the spirited, independent Aravis, dressed in commoner's clothing and aggressively finding her freedom.



Literary Qualities

The structure of *The Horse and His Boy* illustrates a simple and universal pattern in literature, that of a journey. Basically, a novel structured around a journey has a starting place and a goal, in this case two starting places, Shasta's home among the coastal hills in southeast Calormen and Aravis's palace home in south-central Calormen, with the goal being Narnia. The attractions of a journey narrative are the events that occur during the journey. These can be very complicated, as in Homer's epic *The Odyssey*, in which the main character Odysseus takes ten years to reach home while he encounters various predicaments and ingeniously solves them. In *The Horse and His Boy*, Lewis builds his narrative around a series of markers: Aravis and Shasta's homes, their first encounter with lions, Tashbaan, the Desert, the Hermit's home, and Anvard, with each having its own adventures and representing a step in maturity for one or more of the characters.

For example, Aravis and Bree learn something about humility at Tashbaan, with Aravis having to pretend to be a lowerclass girl and Aravis having his fine tail cut raggedly to make him look more common.

Of particular interest are the encounters with the lions, as well as one domestic cat.

Bree and Shasta first encounter lions northwest of Shasta's old home, and Hwin and Aravis encounter lions at the same time to the west of Bree and Shasta. The lions have the effect of driving the four together into one group with a common goal: to reach Narnia, where there are no slaves, talking horses have rights, and girls are free. Later, at the tombs of ancient kings, Shasta is comforted by a cat. When Shasta has the foolish notion of setting out across the desert by himself, the cat sits between him and the desert, offering enough comfort that Shasta falls asleep against him. When the travelers are in Archenland, a lion chases them to the Hermit's home, clawing Aravis slightly, while Shasta shows courage by trying to defend the others against the lion.

When Shasta is lost in the mountains of Archenland, enveloped in fog, he hears three voices speak to him, and then he sees a gigantic lion walking beside him.

Each of these events represents Aslan taking a hand in the lives of the characters.

It was He who originally guided the rowboat on which the baby Shasta was stranded to a shore where he would be discovered and cared for. The lions who pushed the travelers together were actually one Lion, Aslan. As four working together, Aravis, Hwin, Shasta, and Bree had a better chance of escaping Calormen than they had while traveling separately. Each brought something to the journey that helped the others.

The golden cat at the tombs was Aslan, again, this time acting as the Comforter, soothing the unhappy spirit of Shasta. The fierce Lion in Archenland was Aslan again, driving the travelers to the Hermit's home and exacting a price on Aravis for her having left her servant to take a whipping.



Each of these instances is meant to show Aslan's hand in people's lives. The incident in the fog is somewhat more metaphysical.

The three voices Shasta hears are meant to represent one of the central mysteries of Christianity, how there can be one God in three forms. There is the high voice of the Holy Spirit, the medium voice of Christ, and the deep voice of the Father. The giant lion who emerges from the fog is the embodiment of all three; it is Christ, Aslan's name on the earth. These instances reveal Aslan (Christ) the Guide, the Comforter, the Judge, and the Mystery. The anticlimax of the novel reveals Aslan the Merciful; the law says that Rabadash may be executed for his crimes, but Aslan's judgment leaves Rabadash with his life and a chance to repent and become a good man. Of those who witness Aslan turning Rabadash into a donkey, it is Edmund who knows that only by Aslan's mercy was Rabadash able to mend and become a good man.



Themes

Friendship

Friendship is the foundation on which many of the relationships in this novel are based. Shasta is a lonely young man, when the novel begins. Shasta has lived alone with the fisherman all his life without benefit of children his own age or even the right to go into the village to make the acquaintance of the other people in the area. When Shasta overhears the fisherman telling the Tarkaan that he found Shasta in a boat by the river, Shasta wants so desperately to have someone to talk to that he begins to talk to a horse. When the horse talks back, Shasta is too relieved to be surprised. A friendship begins in that moment between the horse and the boy, especially when the horse convinces Shasta that they must run away together.

Shasta trusts the horse, Bree, so much that he allows the horse not only to pick the direction in which they will run, but also to teach him how to ride. Shasta falls off Bree so many times, he is too sore to move the next morning. However, Shasta convinces himself that Bree is correct in demanding they move quickly before they are caught by the Tarkaan. Shasta appears to be very trusting in this first part of the novel. If caught with Bree, Shasta will face prison or even death. If not for the strong rapport between the horse and the boy, the friendship that they have developed, Shasta may not have been able to enter into this situation without some serious doubts. As it is, Shasta is deeply afraid, when he realizes Bree wants to join their small adventure to that of Hwin and Aravis's.

Shasta takes an instant dislike to Aravis, when he first meets her. It does not help that Shasta believed Aravis to be a Tarkaan out to catch Shasta with Bree. To find that she is the daughter of an important Tarkaan only adds to Shasta's distain of the girl. It is also difficult for Shasta to realize this beautiful girl is much better educated than him and of a social class he would never mingle among under different circumstances. Shasta thinks ill of Aravis and believes she will take the first opportunity available to leave Shasta alone. However, when Aravis comes to the tombs as promised and resumes the trip with Shasta, his feelings change slightly. It is the attack by Aslan on the run to the Hermit's house that changes Shasta's feelings completely. Aravis is now someone he cares about, someone he risked his life to save. Although they still argue, Shasta has come to admire Aravis to the point that, when they are both older, Shasta makes Aravis his wife.

Christian Parallels

Many readers and critics through the fifty years since the first Chronicle of Narnia book was published have seen Christian themes in each of the novels. In *The Horse and his Boy*, there are many parallels between events within their plots and events described in the Bible or in Christian faith based prayers. Many of these parallels involve the



character of Aslan, the kindly lion who is King and Lord over all of Narnia and its bordering countries. At times in these novels Aslan appears to embody the spirit of Jesus, while at others he appears to resemble God himself.

The major parallel between Christianity and this novel involve the scene where Shasta is walking alone in the night a feels the breath of someone beside him. At first Shasta cannot see who is there, nor can he tell if it is human or beast. When Shasta finally speaks, Aslan says that he has been waiting a long time for Shasta to speak. Aslan explains that he has been beside Shasta many times throughout the novel and that he had no reason to be afraid of him. The next morning, when Shasta once again walks the path he had traveled the night before with Aslan, he discovers that there is a sheer drop on the side that Aslan was walking. Shasta knows at once that Aslan walked that path in order to keep Shasta from falling. This parallels a poem from the Christian faith that describes the path that God walks with each of his followers in order to protect them from harm.

Another parallel is when Shasta is alone at the Tombs waiting for his companions to join him once more. Shasta is afraid all alone in the dark, especially since it is rumored that ghouls inhabit the area around the Tombs. However, there is a small cat that stays with Shasta and protects him from the wild animals that roam the oasis. Later Shasta learns that this cat was Aslan himself. Again this touches on Christian stories in which God promises to always protect his believers.

Finally, Aslan confesses to injuring Aravis, when he pretended to be a wild lion in order to force them to run faster into the Hermit's yard. Aslan injured Aravis, because she caused a servant in her stepmother's home to be whipped. This too parallels core beliefs of the Christian Bible in which God promises an eye for an eye for anyone who wrongs one of his believers.

Another set of parallels that do not involve Aslan also exist within the plot of this novel. The first is when Shasta, as an infant, is found by the fishermen floating in a small boat in the river. This is very much like the story of Moses who is found floating in a river in a basket. The second has to do with Bree's pride. Bree is so full of pride that he is ashamed of his actions and nearly refuses to return to his home country of Narnia. However, Aslan explains to him that pride is not something he should hold on to and that he needs to go home. This parallels sections of the Bible in which pride is discussed as a sin that a man should try not to indulge.

Secret Origins

Another theme of this novel is secret origins. Shasta grew up believing the fisherman he calls father was his father. However, in the opening pages of the novel Shasta learns that his father is not his biological father, but a man who happened to find him floating lost in a boat as an infant. Shasta has always suspected that he is different from the people of his country, since his coloring is different. Shasta is blond and blue eyed



where most of the people of Calormen are dark skinned and dark haired. However, it never occurred to him that the man he calls father was not.

When Shasta is in Tashbaan, he is pulled out of the crowd by King Edmund who mistakes him for the prince of Archenland. Shasta is so surprised by this mistake that he does not know how to correct it. Later, the true prince of Archenland appears and Shasta realizes there is some resemblance between the two, but he is so concerned about missing his friends at the Tombs, that Shasta does not spend much time thinking about it. However, the subject comes up again, when Shasta arrives in Archenland and meets the King. King Lune takes one look at the boy and mistakes him for his son, Prince Corin. When Shasta corrects the king, a connection is made.

King Lune had twins. When a psychic tells him that one of his sons will save Archenland some day, an enemy of the king's steals one of the twins away. The king chases after the trader and finds his ship. However, the child was taken from the boat before the king can board it and rescue him. No one knows for sure what has happened to the boy after that. However, Shasta later learns that a sailor gave his own life in order to save Shasta's and that Aslan himself gave the boat a push toward the shore where the fisherman sat in order to save Shasta's life. The acknowledgement of this secret changes Shasta's life. Not only does Shasta become Prince of Archenland, he is destined to be king since he is the first born. Shasta is overwhelmed by all this, but soon comes to accept it and becomes a good king.

Another example of secret origins in this novel has to do with the horses. Bree and Hwin are talking horses from Narnia who were stolen from their homes. The horses could not allow the humans of Calormen to know they could speak because this would cause them great harm. Therefore, Bree and Hwin must keep their true origins secret from everyone around them and to pretend to be dumb horses. Bree finds this very difficult and is worried that, when he returns to Narnia, he will not know how to behave like a talking horse. However, Aslan lays his fears to rest and Bree returns home to live out a long and happy life. Hwin too returns and lives a good life, remaining friends with both Bree and the children.



Themes/Characters

Shasta is the main character of *The Horse and His Boy*, although other characters are well developed. At the beginning, Shasta is a boy serving the only father he has known, a fisherman. Fair-haired while the local people tend to be dark-haired, he stands out as unusual. A passing nobleman is certain Shasta must be descended from northerners and cannot be the son of the man with whom Shasta lives. Much of the narrative of *The Horse and His Boy* involves Shasta learning to shed his slave mentality and to think independently and act freely. When Bree suggests that they flee together, Shasta acts more out of fear of the nobleman than out of a desire to be free.

On the other hand, Bree wants to be free.

He remembers being kidnapped from Narnia when he was a colt and forced to serve Calormen in wars. He has a great deal of self-discipline, for he has avoided speaking for all the years he has been captive, knowing that he would become all too interesting to his master and others if they knew he could speak and think. Even so, he is somewhat arrogant and has some learning of his own to do. He has been a magnificent warrior, but the horses he has faced in battle were unthinking beasts, not talking horses like those found in Narnia, and they have been easy for him to overcome. By the time he reaches Archenland, he realizes that to be just one talking horse among many will present him with challenges he has not faced before; he will not be superior to them but equal.

Hwin seems to be a sensible horse. Like Bree, when she sees a chance to escape Calormen, she seizes it. It is Bree's reasoning that a horse and a boy will not excite much interest in Calormen, whereas a horse by itself or a boy by himself might be very interesting to people who might want to capture a stray horse or boy. Hwin has much the same idea about Aravis; she proves a steadying influence for the girl when the girl contemplates suicide, and she is a steadying influence for Bree and Shasta as they go through the emotional upheavals that accompany their growth from slaves to self-motivated, liberated beings.

Aravis almost steals the show from Shasta, the boy to whom the title refers. She is passionate and strong-willed, unlike other girls of her social class such as Lasaraleen, who thinks being given in marriage to a rich old man is wonderful. Sometime, somehow, Aravis got it in her head that she should be able to think for herself and to make her own choices. This is admirable, but it comes encumbered with the ruthlessness of the nobility of Calormen; Aravis leaves a servant girl to be whipped for having let Aravis get away. She also has contempt for those of lower classes, which she expresses toward Shasta. Like Shasta and Bree, she has some growing to do, and while Shasta learns to be his own master and Bree learns to live among equals, Aravis learns that anyone who has courage and a good heart is worthy of her admiration and should be treated courteously.



Of interest for "The Chronicles of Narnia" as a whole are the depictions of Susan, Lucy, and Edmund. High King Peter is off fighting against the evil giants to the north of Narnia and therefore does not appear in *The Horse and His Boy*. Susan has for a short time been impressed by the physical courage of Rabadash, son of the Tisroc, who while visiting at Cair Paravel showed himself to be a master horseman and warrior.

Although Susan can be a bit silly at times, she is smart enough to realize that the Rabadash she sees while she visits Tashbaan is a cruel man who would abuse her, as he would abuse any woman. After all, women are little more than the property of men in Calormen.

Significantly, when Narnia sends troops to fight the Calormenes in Archenland, Susan stays behind at Cair Paravel. Although she is an amazingly good archer, she shrinks from fights. By contrast, Queen Lucy not only joins the battle outside the gates to Anvard, capital of Archenland, she leads the contingent of archers. She takes them to a spot above the entrance to the city and has them rain arrows upon the Calormenes who are trying to break down the gates.

This commanding presence is seen early on in *The Horse and His Boy*; when Lucy and the other Narnian visitors to Tashbaan realize that they are almost prisoners of Rabadash, she avidly joins in the planning of their escape. The grownup Lucy of *The Horse and His Boy* is worthy of the young Lucy of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, Prince Caspian, and *The Voyage of the "Dawn Treader."*

She is tough and determined, and she relishes a good adventure.

Edmund is also interesting, but as a contrast to the boy of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. In that novel, he betrays his siblings to the White Witch, and to save his life, the great lion Aslan must give his own in exchange. Edmund the man seems to have fully understood what Aslan did; when someone suggests that Rabadash would never reform, Edmund quietly mentions that he knew of a bad person who did meaning himself. He is a titan in battle, leading the Narnian army into the midst of the Calomene warriors at Anvard, but he is also merciful. He is also bossy and prone to making overwise statements ("But a boy in battle is a danger only to his own side"), a trait he retains in *The Voyage of the "Dawn Treader."*

The villain Rabadash is undoubtedly courageous, but that does not make him a good man. In battle, he commits himself to the danger as much as anyone else, and he is very good at fighting the enemy, yet he is without the qualities that make Edmund both a courageous warrior and good man.

When Rabadash and his warriors are about to attack Anvard, he tells them that they must kill every male there, even the dayold babies, and in exchange they may divvy up the wealth and women among themselves. This is pure villainy, and it is notable that this vile aspect of Rabadash undercuts the value of his courage worthless. Aslan has an interesting punishment for Rabadash, who refuses to repeat his evil and who calls Aslan bad names: Rabadash is transformed into a donkey, and he can only be transformed



back into a man in the chief temple of Tash in Tashbaan. Furthermore, he cannot travel farther than ten miles from Tashbaan without permanently turning back into a donkey. Thus, he is transformed from donkey to man in a very public place, so that all his future subjects learn about what happened to him, leading to his being known as "Rabadash the Ridiculous," but he cannot lead warriors into battle against his neighbors. Successful generals are threats to replace Tisrocs, so as Tisroc, after his father's death, Rabadash avoids wars and uses diplomacy to resolve disputes with Calormen's neighbors, bring his subjects into a great era of great peace.

Style

Point of View

In *The Horse and his Boy*, the author, C.S. Lewis, is clearly the narrator. Although the novel is told primarily in the third person point of view, there are several places in which the author makes observations or comments in the first person point of view. For example, there are several places within the narration, when C.S. Lewis makes comments about the plot or the situation he is currently discussing, such as in the first chapter, when he says "You must imagine that Shasta felt at all as you and I would feel if we had just overheard our parents talking about selling us for slaves." (pg. 208) Written in this fashion, the story is told as though being reported by someone who has intimate knowledge of each of the characters and the events reported upon.

Lewis increases the level of intimacy between himself and his readers by his choice of narration. The story, with Lewis's insertions, gives the story the feel of having it told to the reader by a favorite uncle or friend. Lewis also restrains himself from attempting to explain away the fantasy aspects of the novel. Instead of making excuses why the horses can talk, Lewis simply states that many horses can speak in Narnia. This keeps the story believable for the reader. If Lewis had attempted long explanations, the reality would have overshadowed the fantasy and ruined the feel of the novel.

Setting

The novel begins in the desert country of Calormen, south of Narnia. This country is inhabited primarily by humans and does not contain the magic or beauty of Narnia. The village that Shasta grew up in is a fishing village, a poor community where competition to make a good wage is fierce. Shasta lives in a small house with the fisherman he calls father and spends his days performing many household chores. When Shasta and Bree leave this village, the first thing Shasta notices about the changing landscape is that it no longer has the constant smell of fish to it.

From this tiny village, Bree and Shasta travel to the city of Tashbaan. This city is built on a hill that rises above a river. The city is very crowded, noisy, and dirty. The streets are so narrow that, when a royal party passes, everyone else must move tight against the walls in order to allow them to pass. The weather is hot, increasing the discomfort of the city. This city is the opposite of the cool, lush fields Shasta and his companions passed through on their way to the city. The contrast in settings changes the mood of the novel which is appropriate to the development of the plot since this is the part in the story, when things become more dangerous for Shasta and his companions.

The last setting of the novel is Narnia and its adjacent country, Archenland. These places are beautifully natural, with lots of trees and huge fields of soft green grass. These are magical places, places full of happiness and safety. The setting of these



places, filled with such beauty, adds to the peaceful feeling of the novel. Again in this section of the story there is a trail that Shasta follows that has a sheer drop off on one side, once again increasing the tension of the story and touching on the Christian themes of the novel since this is where Aslan joins Shasta on his travels, constantly walking on his side where the drop off is located. However, this danger passes quickly as Shasta enters a valley that separates the two countries.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is clear and concise English. There are several names and terms used that may not be familiar to the readers, such as Tarkheena, a term used to address Aravis and other women of her social status. However, most of the language, though at times a little old fashioned, is quite easy to understand. The novel, therefore, is quite easy to read.

The dialogue between Shasta and Bree or Shasta and Aravis is quite simple as one would expect of dialogue that takes place mainly between children. However, when Shasta meets up with King Edmund, Queen Susan, and their entourage, the speech takes on a more mature sound to it as well as an almost Old English or medieval sense to it. The royals use large words and proper titles that are not a part of Shasta's speech. This sets Shasta apart from the Narnian royals, but it does not make him look ignorant or otherwise uneducated. On the contrary, this use of different types of speech simply sets apart the countries the two sets of people belong to as a French man's language would set him apart from an Englishman.

Structure

The novel is told in fifteen chapters, each of which is titled by some action or event that will be of importance within that chapter, for example the title of Chapter One is How Shasta Set Out on his Travels. This technique not only emphasizes each action or event, but it also helps to peak the interest of the reader. The novel is also told in a linear fashion, the bulk of the novel taking place in only a few days, while the end chapter covers many years in explaining what happens to each character in the future, for example how Prince Cor becomes king and makes Aravis his wife.

The main plot of the story deals with Shasta's escape from Calormen, and the friendships he develops on his travels with the horses, Bree and Hwin, and with the Tarkheena Aravis. There are appearances in the novel by characters from other Chronicles of Narnia novels, including King Edmund and Queen Susan, as well as the kindly lion, Aslan. The pace of the novel is smooth and quick, with short chapters and eloquent dialogue



Quotes

"This is the story of an adventure that happened in Narnia and Calormen and the lands between, in the Golden Age when Peter was High King in Narnia and his brother and his two sisters were King and Queens under him." Chapter 1, How Shasta Set Out on his Travels, pg. 205*

"These were great days for Shasta, and every day better than the last as his muscles hardened and he fell less often." Chapter 2, A Wayside Adventure, pg. 215*

"About a minute later, however, he broke into a gallop again, and no wonder. For the roar broke out again, this time on their left from the direction of the forest."

Chapter 2, A Wayside Adventure, pg. 217*

"Aravis went a few steps away into the wood and came back looking odd in her new, ragged clothes and carrying her real ones in a bundle." Chapter 3, At the Gates of Tashbaan, pg. 227*

"And instead of being grave and mysterious like most Calormenes, they walked with a swing and let their arms and shoulders go free, and chatted and laughed. One was whistling. You could see that they were ready to be friends with anyone who was friendly, and didn't give a fig for anyone who wasn't. Shasta though he had never seen anything so lovely in his life."

Chapter 4, Shasta Falls in with the Narnians, pg. 231*

"Shasta lay down beside it with his back against the cat and his face towards the Tombs, because if one is nervous there's nothing like having your face towards the danger and having something warm and solid at your back." Chapter 6, Shasta among the Tombs, pg. 245*

"--and then came the most terrible noise they could have heard at the moment: the noise of the door opening. And then came light. And because Aravis couldn't get her head any further in behind the sofa, she saw everything." Chapter 7, Aravis in Tashbaan, pg. 255*

"Though Tashbaan looked very far away when they first saw it, it refused to look any further away as they went on." Chapter 9, Across the Desert, pg. 265*

"When Shasta went through the gate he found a slope of grass and a little heather running up before him to some trees. He had nothing to think about now and no plans to make; he had only to run, and that was quite enough." Chapter 11, The Unwelcome Fellow Traveler, pg. 276*



"Shasta discovered that someone or somebody was walking beside him. It was pitch dark and he could see nothing. The Thing (or Person) was going so quietly that he could hardly hear any footfalls. What he could hear was breathing."

Chapter 11, The Unwelcome Fellow Traveler, pg. 280*

"Aslan was gone. But there was a brightness in the air and on the grass, and a joy in their hearts, which assured them that he had been no dream: and anyway, there was the donkey in front of them." Chapter 15, Rabadash the Ridiculous, pg. 308*

"Aravis also had many quarrels (and, I'm afraid, even fights) with Cor, but they always made it up again: so that years later, when they were grown up, they were so used to quarrelling and making it up again that they got married so as to go on doing it more conveniently."

Chapter 15, Rabadash the Ridiculous, pg. 310*

* C.S. Lewis, *The Horse and His Boy*, 1954. *The Chronicles of Narnia*. New York: HarperCollins, 2001. 199-310.



Adaptations

Lewis said that his publisher chose the order in which his Narnia books were published, and when asked in what order they should be read, he provided this sequence:

The Magician's Nephew
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
The Horse and His Boy
Prince Caspian
The Voyage of the "Dawn Treader"
The Silver Chair
The Last Battle

Each novel can stand on its own, without being read in any particular order, but the sequence Lewis preferred is chronological, from the beginning of Narnia's world to its ending.

The Magician's Nephew was written after *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, so Lewis had the task of making his account of the beginning of Narnia's world match the events that would later occur in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The Magician's Nephew provides explanations for the origins of the mysterious lamp post in the woods, the White Witch, the wide variety of talking animals, and the introductions of evil into Aslan's young world. The professor in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* is presented as the boy Digory.

In the period between the events in *The Magician's Nephew* and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, the kingdom of Archenland, south of Narnia, is established by the younger son of King Frank and Queen Helen, and the kingdom of Calormen is established by people from Archenland. One hundred years before the beginning of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, the White Witch takes over Narnia and declares herself its queen.

When the Pevensie children show up, they fulfill a prophecy that the witch would be overthrown by two sons of Adam and two daughters of Eve—that is, two boys and two girls from Earth. It is in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* that Aslan makes His great sacrifice, surrendering His life for that of the traitor Edmund, and His resurrection makes death run backwards, meaning eternal life is possible for all who live in Narnia's world.

Prince Caspian is the beginning of the Prince Caspian trilogy within "The Chronicles of Narnia." In the novel, Caspian, who will be known as Caspian the Navigator, is introduced. Caspian is the tenth in a line of Telmarine kings; the people from Telmar, southwest of Narnia, had conquered Narnia and had so oppressed the Old Narnians that they disappeared from view. The Telmarines came to Narnia from the South Pacific of the Earth. In *Prince Caspian*, the usurper Miraz has murdered Caspian's father and



claimed the crown of Narnia for himself, but the Old Narnians and the Pevensie children help defeat Miraz and place Caspian on the throne, with Aslan's blessing.

The miserable boy Eustace is introduced in *The Voyage of the "Dawn Treader."* He is a plague on Lucy and Edmund Pevensie, as well as everybody on the Dawn Treader until he learns that he is a monster by actually transforming into one and thereby learns the importance of friendship. King Caspian swore an oath to Aslan that he would seek out the seven faithful lords who had been banished to the east by Miraz, and he voyages across the sea looking for them, eventually sailing all the way to the End of the World and the Last Wave, beyond which are the cliffs of Aslan's Country. It is for this feat that he becomes known as Caspian the Navigator or sometimes Caspian Seafarer, rather than just Caspian X.

In *The Silver Chair*, Caspian is a very old man whose son Rilian has been missing for ten years. Aslan calls Eustace and Jill, a new character, to Narnia to find Rilian and return him to his home. Eustace and Jill team up with one of the most delightful characters of "The Chronicles of Narnia," Puddleglum, a Marsh-wiggle, to trek through the northern wastes into very dangerous giant country and eventually plunge deep underground to a vast but very unhappy civilization. There, they meet the green witch, who seems to have ties to Jadis, the White Witch.

The Last Battle has been called a sad and happy book for generations of readers. It is sad because in it Lewis puts an end to "The Chronicles of Narnia." It is happy because all the favorite characters of the series are reunited in Aslan's Country in perfect health, and they discover a universe of adventures without end, all with the blessing of Aslan's father, the Emperor-beyond-the-Sea. In *The Magician's Nephew*, Lewis draws on Isaiah, Revelations, and letters by Paul and Peter to portray a cataclysmic battle between good and evil in which Narnia is overthrown by traitors and Calormenes, and its subjects are enslaved and murdered. When all seems lost, but with even the evildoers afraid of what they have done, the demon Tash takes his lawful prey and then is banished to his own realm, probably by High King Peter, and Aslan begins the process whereby not only Narnia's world but the entire universe of Narnia's world dies. However, within Aslan's Country, everything good about Narnia is preserved, better, brighter, more joyous than before, and no one is ever afraid, and miracles abound.



Topics for Discussion

1. A servant takes a whipping for allowing Aravis to run away. Is this Aravis's fault, or is it the fault of the people who do the whipping? Explain your answer based on information in the novel.
2. Why does Aslan let Rabadash live?
3. Why does Aslan not use His powers to change Calormen?
4. Why would Arsheesh beat Shasta? What does this tell us about Shasta's life?
5. Is Shasta sexist? How does his attitude toward Aravis reflect his upbringing?
6. Is Aravis elitist? How does her attitude toward other people change as her adventure progresses?
7. Is Bree conceited? Why would he be afraid of living among other talking horses?
8. Sallowpad says, "See the bear in his own den before you judge of his conditions." How does the story of The Horse and His Boy exemplify this idea?
9. Explain the significance of the resemblance between Corin and Shasta and pinpoint where in the book you first realized it.
10. Should Shasta have revealed himself when he was in the living quarters of the Narnians in Tashbaan? What would have happened if he had?
11. What makes Aravis "as true as steel?" 12. What is the point Lewis makes with the three voices that Shasta hears on the mountainside? What evidence in the text supports your reading of his point?
13. Why does Lasaraleen help Aravis?



Essay Topics

Discuss the point of view in this novel. Is the point of view third person or first person? There are times when the author makes first person statements. Does this distract from the story or add to it? How would the novel be different if the author did not make these statements? What if it were told from the point of view of Shasta? Aravis? Bree?

Discuss talking horses. Is it believable that a horse can speak? How does the author make this believable? What would have happened to Bree or Hwin, if the humans in Calormen had learned of their ability to speak? Do you think Bree could fit in with the horses in Narnia despite his habits learned from the dumber horses of Calormen?

Discuss the Christian themes in this novel. Do you think these themes create a moral for the novel? If so, what is it? Why do you think C.S. Lewis wrote so many Christian themes in his novels? Do you think it detracts from the story or adds to it? Do you think a non-Christian would still enjoy the novel?

Discuss secrets. Why do you think parents keep secrets from children? Do you think this is a good thing or a bad? Why do you think the fisherman never told Shasta the truth about his own birth? Do you think this truth had anything to do with Shasta's decision to run away?

Discuss Rabadash. Why do you think he wanted to marry Queen Susan? Do you think her decision not to marry him gave him the right to attack Archenland and Narnia? Do you think Aslan's punishment was just?

Discuss Aslan. Why do you think he chose to protect Shasta? Do you think he should have appeared in his real form at the Tombs? Why did he appear as a cat? Do you think Aslan was right in punishing Aravis? What would have happened if Aslan had not appeared in the novel at all? Would Shasta have survived? Would he have saved Archenland?

Discuss Calormen. What modern country is it most like? What country do you think Lewis had in mind when he created Calormen? Why do the Calormene not like Narnians?



Ideas for Reports and Papers

1. Are women still bartered as brides in the modern world, the way Aravis is in *The Horse and His Boy*? Where? What explains this custom?
2. Draw or paint a picture of Tashbaan or a scene in Tashbaan, the great bustling capital of Calormen.
3. How complete are the depictions of Susan, Lucy, and Edmund in *The Horse and His Boy*? What would you still like to know?
4. What are all the different ways Aslan appears in the narrative of *The Horse and His Boy*? How do these different ways compare to each other?
5. Draw a map showing the location of the events in *The Horse and His Boy*.

Show the routes taken by Aravis, Hwin, Shasta, and Bree.

6. In *The Magician's Nephew*, Jadis is described as terribly practical. In what ways is the Tisroc terribly practical?
7. The four travelers in *The Horse and His Boy* learn about each other's special qualities. What do they learn? Why is this learning important?
8. Write a story about life in Anvard after the end of *The Horse and His Boy*.
9. How does Aslan's having been with Shasta throughout Shasta's adventure shape Lewis's image of Aslan and of Shasta?
10. What is the value of mercy in *The Horse and His Boy*? Where is it to be found?
How is it applied and why?

Further Study

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Ford, Paul F. Companion to Narnia. 4th ed.

New York: HarperCollins, 1994. This reference for "The Chronicles of Narnia" is more for adults than for youngsters. It is an alphabetical listing of characters and themes, with some sharp, insightful explanations of major issues.

Lewis, C. S. C. S. Lewis Letters to Children.

Edited by Lyle W. Dorsett and Marjorie Lamp Mead. New York: Simon & Schuster, Touchstone, 1985. Lewis had an extensive correspondence with children, who wrote to him from all over the world. He made a point of replying to every letter he received, although near the end of his life he needed the help of his older brother Warnie. This book is a selection from his many letters written to young readers.

He is charming, but he gives serious answers to youngsters with serious questions.

Wilson, A. N. C. S. Lewis: A Biography. London: Collins, 1990. In this biography, Wilson sorts through the legend to uncover the real C. S. Lewis, explaining much of Lewis's private life, as well as his public career. It is a very good study of the very complex man.



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Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction

Editor

Kirk H. Beetz, Ph.D.

Cover Design

Amanda Mott

Cover Art is "Pierrot," 1947, by William Baziotès Oil on Canvas, 42 1/8 x 36 Donated by the Alisa Mellon Bruce Fund, ©, 1996 Reproduced with Permission from the Board of Trustees, National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction

Includes bibliographical references and index

Summary: A multi-volume compilation of analytical essays on and study activities for the works of authors of popular fiction. Includes biography data, publishing history, and resources for the author of each analyzed work.

ISBN 0-933833-41-5 (Volumes 1-3, Biography Series)

ISBN 0-933833-42-3 (Volumes 1-8, Analyses Series)

ISBN 0-933833-38-5 (Entire set, 11 volumes)

1. Popular literature—Bio-bibliography. 2. Fiction—19th century—Bio-bibliography. 3. Fiction—20th century—Bio-bibliography. I. Beetz, Kirk H., 1952-

Z6514.P7B43 1996[PN56.P55]809.3—dc20 96-20771 CIP

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Printed in the United States of America First Printing, November 1996