

# **The Last Battle Study Guide**

## **The Last Battle by C. S. Lewis**

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# Plot Summary

"The Last Battle" by C.S. Lewis begins by introducing a donkey named Puzzle and an Ape named Shift. They sit on the banks of the Caldron Pool beyond Lantern Waste. Puzzle has been convinced that he is not clever and that Shift should make all of the decisions. The two sit down and see something in the water. The item in the water is a lion skin, which Shift states was sent by Aslan for Puzzle to wear. Narnians would believe that Puzzle is Aslan and they would obey his commands. Shift modifies the lion skin to fit Puzzle.

Tirian is outside of his hunting lodge to escape Cair Paravel with his unicorn and trusted friend, Jewel. Jewel sits with him and they discuss the rumors about Aslan's return to Narnia. They hear a centaur approaching, and it is Roonwit who explains what he has seen and that the coming of Aslan is a lie. A dryad appears and explains that trees are being felled in Lantern Waste. Tirian arrives at the scene and ends up killing two Caloremene after they abuse a talking horse. Tirian and Jewel are pursued by Caloremene and they decide to give themselves up and request an audience with Aslan.

They are brought to the Ape and then after questioning him, Tirian is tied up to a tree. Animals go to give Tirian food and drink, but they do not untie him out of fear of reprisal. Tirian calls out for help and goes into a dream state and sees several people at a table for a meal. Two children soon appear and help him. They escape and he trains them in weapon use, then they go back to set the Unicorn free. Jill also finds Puzzle and Puzzle explains his situation.

They come across a band of Dwarfs and Tirian stops them. They are being sold into slavery and Tirian questions them in his disguise about whose orders they are following. Tirian reveals the deception to the Dwarfs. They are tired of Aslan's name and want nothing to do with either side. However, Poggin the Dwarf pledges his allegiance to Tirian.

They decide to meet Roonwit, only to find out from Farsight the Eagle that Cair Paravel has fallen and Roonwit the Centaur was killed. They decide to return to the Stable, but first Tirian wants the children to return to their own world. They refuse to go and do not have a way to return home anyways. They reach the Stable and watch as the Ape has Ginger the Cat go in and then a Calormene wants to go into the Stable.

Battle soon ensues and the Dwarfs kill the Talking Horses. Tirian grabs Rishda Tarkaan and brings him into the Stable with him only to discover that Tash appears. Tasha pounces on Rishda Tarkaan and then the Kings and Queens of Narnia appear, and finally Aslan. Aslan wakes Father Time and brings an end to the earth with shooting stars. The animals go with Aslan and the others. The world is left to be eaten by lizards and dragons.

Narnia as they knew it comes to an end, but Aslan brings them to the other Narnia. They discover that they are dead and are going to stay at the true Narnia.

# Chapter One

## Chapter One Summary

Chapter One begins with the introduction of the story of an ape named Shift who was clever, ugly, and wrinkled. The Ape had a small house that was built in the fork of the tree. There were not that many talking beasts, men or dwarfs in the part of the woods where Shift lives. Shift has a donkey for a friend and his name is Puzzle, but he is actually more like a servant because he does all of the work. Puzzle didn't complain and just agreed that he was not clever.

Shift walked by the shore of the caldron pool under the cliffs near the western part of Narnia where there is a waterfall that empties into the River of Narnia. Shift encouraged him to jump in to go after something floating in the water. Shift ends up going in instead of Puzzle and ended up discovering a large hearthrug and he put it in front of Puzzle. They discover that it is a lion skin and they discuss whether or not the lion skin should be worn. Shift notices that the skin would not be the right size for Puzzle and so he started to cut pieces out for Puzzles body and guilt trips Puzzle into try it on.

Shift believes that Puzzle looks like Aslan, the Great Lion and thinks that everyone would do as they were told. Shift tries to convince him that he could do good. Shift wants to tell him what to say while Puzzle dress like the lion. There is an earthquake, which Puzzle thinks is a sign or warning about the skin, but Shift claims he doesn't know about such things.

## Chapter One Analysis

The antagonist, Shift is introduced in Chapter One. The author starts the book with a conflict between two characters and the reader wonders what will happen between the two, especially given their personalities. The author also uses foreshadowing and casts a shadow on what might happen in Narnia should the Ape go through with his plan. The Ape convinces Puzzle to overlook the sign and that the sign is from Aslan, but that he is able to read the signs.



# Chapter Two

## Chapter Two Summary

Three weeks later the last Kings of Narnia sit under a great oak beside the hunting lodge, not far from the Eastern side of Lantern Waste and above where the two rivers meet. The King of Narnia loves the pomp of the royal city, also known as Cair Paravel. The last of the kings was King Tirian and he was between 21 and 25 years old. King Tirian had a scant beard, was strong and his eyes were blue.

Jewel the Unicorn was with King Tirian and they loved like one another and had saved each other during battle. Jewel and King Tirian discuss the message given by the birds that Aslan has return to Narnia. They did not see him, but they were certain of his presence because of the Stag in Lantern Waste and the dark man with the beard, the merchant. The merchant was from Calorm and the Calormenese did not care for Aslan. They are both delighted at the prospect of Aslan's return.

A Centaur named Roonwit arrives and they give him food and he makes a toast with the wine to Aslan and the King. Roonwit discusses his long life and that the stars say nothing about the coming of Aslan and then explain that great evil hangs over Narnia. Roonwit claims that Roonwit's arrival is a lie. They discuss the rumor that the lion is not tame.

Jewel claims that Aslan might not come even though the stars foretold his coming, because he is not a slave of the stars, but is their Maker.

They talk about the murders of the talking trees, particularly Lantern Waste, which was just a few miles away. The King's grief grows and he is too angry to speak, then he decides they should go up the river to find the villains that did this. Roonwit gives a warning about the king's wrath and believes they should wait a while.

The King says that he will not wait and he gives Roonwit a ring as a token to gather men at arms, Talking Dogs, Dwarfs, a Leopard, and Stonefoot the Giant quickly.

Jewel and the King leave and reach the River and they wade through together. Tirian clings to the Unicorn's neck while they cross and is so angry he barely notices the cold temperature of the water. He dries his sword when they get to the shore. Lantern Waste lay ahead of them and they come upon a raft. The King asks the Water-Rat why they are felling the trees and the Water-Rat explains that they are being taken down to sell to the Calormenes and that the orders came from Aslan himself. The King questions whether it could be Aslan who ordered the felling of the holy trees and the murder of the Dryads. Jewel questions whether the Dryads did something wrong.

Neither the King nor the Unicorn considers how foolish it was for them to go without anyone else. They are too angry and do not think clearly.



Horrible thoughts arise in the King's heart and they discuss how they have lived for too long. They arrive at Lantern Waste and the King's face turns white as a broad lane had been opened through the forest. A crowd of people are at work, cracking whips and horses tugging at the logs. The men are from Caloremen, not from Narnia.

Calormen is a cruel country that lies beyond Archenland across the desert to the south. One of the Calormenes whips a free Talking Horse of Narnai and the horse rears up, screaming at the man. When Tirian realizes that the Horse was one of his own Narnians, a rage grew and they rushed in, beheading and goring them.

## Chapter Two Analysis

The protagonist is introduced in Chapter Two with the introduction of King Tirian and the Unicorn, Jewel. It is clear that there is conflict through the conversation between Jewel and Tirian. When Roonwit comes, the conflict is heightened as he brings news of what the stars say and then the dryad appears to bring another conflict regarding the felled Talking Trees. The author again uses foreshadowing by having Roonwit give a warning about Tirian's anger.

# Chapter Three

## Chapter Three Summary

King Tirian questions the horse about whether the aliens enslaved him or if there was a battle. The horse explains that Aslan is there and that everything is because of the order made by Aslan. Tirian realizes that they are being surrounded by Calormenes. Jewel takes Tirian on his back and they gallop away. Tirian claims that they are murderers and that Tirian is dishonored and Jewel is ashamed as well.

They wonder how Aslan could be commanding such dreadful things and they discuss that the lion is not tame. Tirian claims that he will go before them and give up his sword, and then will ask to be taken to Aslan.

Jewel agrees and Tirian claims there is no need for the both of them to go and the Unicorn insists on accompanying him. Tirian explains that he was King of Narnia and gives himself up. Jewel gives himself up too. They tie them up and take the King's sword away. They lead them uphill to a big clearing where there is a little hut like stable with a thatched roof. In front of the door sits an Ape (Shift) who is dressed up in a scarlet jacket, jeweled slippers, and a paper crown on his head.

The Ape first addresses the Head Squirrel and claims that Aslan wats more nuts and claims that Aslan wants twice as many as they brought by sunset the next day. The Head Squirrel asks to speak with Aslan himself, but the Ape refuses.

The Ape says Aslan will come out for a bit that night and claims Aslan does not want to be pestered with questions. The Ape claims that everything will be passed through him. The squirrels scamper away and all of their nuts are nearly gone.

The Boar asks why they can't see Aslan and talk to him because when he used to appear in Narnia people would see him face to face. The Ape claims that times have changed. The Ape also claims that he is a man who is hundreds of years old. The Ape claims he is so old and so wise that Aslan will only speak to him.

The Ape claims that everyone will be made to work in the future. The animals react with howling and are appalled that they would be sold into slavery. The Ape claims that they would not be slaves and that everyone would have good wages. The pay will be put into Aslan's treasury and then used for what the Ape says is the common good.

The Ape claims that the Bear knows nothing about true freedom and the Ape claims that "true freedom means doing what I tell you." The Bear doesn't understand this. The Lamb claims that Narnians and the Calormenes belong to a god called Tash. The Ape claims that Tash is another name for Aslan so Tash is Aslan and Ashlan is Tash.

The Cat asks whether the Ape's friend from Calormene say the same and the Caloremene agree.

The King and Jewel had remained silent until this time because they thought they would be interrupting. Tirian looks around at the faces of the Narnians and how miserable they are as they are accepting what the Ape says. Tirian finally speaks up and says that he lies like a Calormene and an Ape.

Tirian is struck down with force and is kicked. The Ape is enraged and tells them to take him away and tie him to a tree until his justice is decided.

## **Chapter Three Analysis**

Lewis begins to introduce the theme of freedom verses slavery here and introduces not only the Ape, but also the Calormenes as enslaving the Narnians. Tirian is ashamed of their actions since they killed the two Calormene and they decide to turn themselves in, but in turning themselves in they are creating a deeper conflict between Tirian and the Ape when Tirian speaks up about what the Ape is saying.

# Chapter Four

## Chapter Four Summary

The King was dizzy from being knocked down and hardly knew what was happening. The Calormenes tie him to an ash tree and bind him with ropes. Tirian can hear the voices of the crowd and the Ape, then he wonders what they did with Jewel. Beasts pass and they look at him with fear, but nobody speaks and a silence falls in the wood.

Hours pass and Tirian becomes tired, hungry, cold and sore. In the dark, Mice, Rabbit, and Moles go to him. They are afraid of Aslan, but they bring him food and drink. They discuss whether they think it really is Aslan and if it is him killing the Wood Nymphs and making them slaves to the King of Calormen.

The Mouse says it would have been better if they had all died before this began. They talk about how the orders are from Aslan and that they have seen Aslan. They talk about how they wanted him to come back, but that he seems to be very angry and that he must be punishing them for something, though they would like to know why. The animals leave and say they will come back if possible.

There is a red light far away that disappeared and then came back, but it was stronger. Tirian realizes that it is a bonfire and Aslan comes out. The animals ask for Aslan to not be angry with them anymore. Tirian could not be sure if it was the Great Lion or not as he never saw Aslan, but he thinks that Aslan is stiff and then reminded that with the nonsense about Tash and Aslan being the same, the whole thing was a cheat.

The Ape puts his head to the yellow things head and then starts to talk to the crowd. Aslan turns around and waddled back in and the Ape shut the door.

Tirian thinks of the kings who had lived and died in Narnia, including King Rilian who was stolen away by a Witch as a prince and was kept hidden in the dark caves. He was later rescued by mysterious children and went back to Narnia and had a long reign.

Tirian then thinks about Caspian the Seafarer whose wicked uncle, King Miraz, tried to murder him. Caspian had fled into the woods to live among the Dwarfs. Caspian was also helped by children.

The children defeated the White Witch and ended the Hundred Years of Winter. The four children had reigned together at Cair Paravel till they were not children. Their reign was the golden age of Narnia and Aslan was involved in their story.

Tirian calls out for Aslan to come and help them and asks for nothing for himself other than for Aslan to save Narnia. Tirian began to feel a faint hope. Tirian asks that Aslan send helpers from beyond the world. Tirian was then plunged into what may be a dream as it was more vivid than any dream he had. He stands in a room where there are seven people at a table and it seems like they just finished eating. Two are very old and

two have the look of a king and warrior. There is a fair-haired young girl, as well as another boy and girl. They are all dressed in strange clothes.

Tirian realizes that the people can see him and the old man claims that Tirian should speak as he has a Narnian look and they are the seven friends of Narnia. Peter the High King orders Tirian to speak, invoking the name of Aslan.

The room starts to swim before Tirian's eyes. He hears the voices and then they say things like "It's fading." He is suddenly awake and tied to the tree, soaked from the morning dew.

## **Chapter Four Analysis**

Some small animals come to help Tirian and although they give him food and water, they will not set him free because they fear the Ape. This furthers the conflict between good and evil, as it becomes more evident that Tirian will need to be the one that stands for good against the Ape and the Calormene.

The King recalls the stories of past visits by the children and calls upon the friends of Narnia for help. The stories about the past gives the reader some background into the previous books in the series. Tirian starts to feel hope and it begins to feel as if he is in two worlds. This foreshadows the arrival of the friends of Narnia who appear in this dream-like state.

# Chapter Five

## Chapter Five Summary

Soon, two children were standing in front of the king out of nowhere and he notices that they were wearing the same clothes as the people in his dream. They were the youngest of the party. The Boy cuts the bonds with a knife and Tirian falls forwards on his hands and knees.

The children say it had been a week since Tirian was in their world, but Tirian said it was only ten minutes. The passing of time is different between the two worlds. The girl explains that they have come to help him.

Tirian leads them away from the stable to rocky places to avoid leaving a trail and then to water where they could not leave a scent. Tirian feels dizzy from the wonder of walking beside creatures from another world. The old stories become more real than ever before. The Boy asks Tirian if he is hungry and Tirian eats six sandwiches. The girl asks about Tirian being tied up. Tirian explains that they should go to a tower where they will find weapons and mail to make their plans.

The children's names are Eustace Scrubb and Jill Pole. They are the same children who rescued Rilian. Tirian explains that he is a descendant of Rilian who has been dead over 200 years. To them, that is the most horrid part about their return to Narnia.

Lord Digory (The Professor) and Aunt Polly (Miss Plummer) were the two who went to Narnia the day all the animals learned to talk.

The children explain that they had called a party to talk about Narnia and that they knew something was up and then Tirian appeared. The question that remained was how to get there because they can't go just by wanting to. They needed to use the Magic Rings. The Magic Rings helped Aunt Polly and Lord Digory get to Narnia long ago before the younger ones were born, but the Rings had since been buried in the garden of a house in London and the house was sold.

High King Peter and the others dressed like workmen to get to the property and get the rings while Eustace and Jill were at school. They met after the school day to get the rings because the older ones could not return. They got on the train with the Professor, Polly, and Lucy and then they were suddenly in Narnia, but they never got to use the Rings.

Eustace says that Aslan did it for them without any Rings. The High King Peter has the Rings, but years before Aslan said that King Edmund and Lucy who were last there could not return to Narnia again.

Eustace complains of the heat and they soon arrive at the square tower with a stream running nearby. Tirian makes sure that no enemies are in sight and then takes his keys

from around his neck to open the tower. There were some bunks to sleep in, lockers, and bundles and an hearth where nobody had lit a fire for many years.

Tirian had always made a garrison search the towers to make sure that it was well stocked. The stocks include swords and armor, among which are the mail of Calormen which they can wear as disguises. The sword is too heavy for Jill, but he is able to give her a bow and a quiver full of arrows.

## **Chapter Five Analysis**

The author has the two children arrive without a clear explanation of how they got to Narnia. This seems like it will be a mystery revealed later in the book. It is important to note that the passing of time is different between Narnia and England, so the reader is left wondering what effects the travel will have on Jill and Eustace. They share old stories with one another and it becomes clear to the reader that the friends of Narnia and the leaders of Narnia have a long history, but that it is has also been some time since their last visit. There is also a breakdown of the different people who are at the table, foreshadowing their appearance and importance later in the book.



# Chapter Six

## Chapter Six Summary

Four hours later, Tirian lay down in one of the bunks to sleep and the two children were already snoring. He made them go to bed because he knew that they could not do without sleep and he had worn them out. He had made Jill practice her archery skills and she was able to shoot a non-talking rabbit, which they skinned, cleaned, and hanged up.

Tirian tried to teach Eustace how to use his sword and shield, which Eustace has learned quite a bit about from his earlier adventures, but that is with a straight Narnian sword, not a curved Caloremene scimitar, which makes for more difficult strokes. Eustace has a good eye and is quick on his feet. Tirian is surprised at the strength of both of the children and that they already seem to be more grown up than they had a few hours earlier. It was one of the effects Narnia air had on visitors.

They agreed that they should go back to Stable Hill to rescue Jewel the Unicorn, then try to go Eaastward to meet Roonwit the Centuar and the men he gathered.

Tirian sleeps for a while, then wakes and makes the children get up so they can travel by night. Tirian gives them advice to keep quiet and allow him to speak cruelly like a Calormen. If he draws his sword, they should draw their weapons. If he cries "Home," the two should return to the tower without continuing to fight.

They go into the cold night towards the Spear-Head, also known as the North Star. They get a little lost and Jill sets them back on their course as she knows her Narnian stars perfectly as she had traveled much in the wild Northern lands and could work out the direction fo the stars even if the Spear-Head was hidden.

Tirian is astonished that she was the best pathfinder of the three and how silently and almost invisibly she glides through the woods.

The woods are far too quiet, without the noise from the animals talking. Gloom and fear reign in Narnia. After some time, they go steeply uphill and the trees grow apart. Tirian can make out the stable and Jill goes with more caution. Jill orders for them to get down without using the letter "S" because it is the sound heard when whispering. They see the stable and a Calormene sentry.

Tirian goes up to the Calormene and soon grips the sentry's hand, then puts a dagger to his neck, ordering him to tell where the Unicorn is being kept. The sentry is forced to lead him to Jewel, who he can see when they go around the back of the stable.

Tirian returns with the Unicorn and says it is time to return home when they discover that Jill is not there. All of the sudden, there is the sound of treacherous dwarfs and



something on hoofs. Soon a voice whispers and it is Jill. Jill had gone into the stable and says something about the false Aslan.

Jill had gone into the stable and it was pitch black inside. Then she struck a light to find an old donkey and a bundle of lion skin tied on to his back and forced it out with the knife, but it was not necessary. Puzzle stands there with Jill because he was sick of the stable.

Jill explains that it was all the Ape and that the Donkey did not know better and is very sorry. The Ape said that Aslan wanted the Donkey to dress up like that and he did not know any better, that it was no fun to live in that stable and he does not know what has been going on outside. Puzzle says sometimes they forgot to give him water and he was only let out for a minute or two at night.

Tirian says that they can meet anyone now that they have found out the Ape's vile plot and that the tide turned. They go in the direction of the drumming and come out on a rough road and there are about thirty Dwarfs marching. Two armed Calormenes lead the column and two bring up the rear.

Tirian asks where they are leading the Narnian Dwarfs and on whose orders.

## **Chapter Six Analysis**

Tirian comes across as a strong leader in training Jill and Eustace, but he also seems compassionate. He is concerned about the children, but is surprised at their strength. He also understands that they have more of a need for rest than he does. They travel by night, heightening the conflict and urgency of their mission. They are able to rescue both Puzzle and Jewel and the plot is beginning to become clear as Puzzle explains the Ape's plan.

# Chapter Seven

## Chapter Seven Summary

The two Calormene raise their spears in salute and address Tirian as master. They say that they are bringing them to the mines of The Tisroc. Tirian talks about the obedience of the Dwarfs and then addresses them about going patiently to die. The Dwarfs say that it is by Aslan's orders and that Aslan has sold them.

Tirian shows the donkey and the lion skin to the dwarfs and then Puzzle begins to speak about how it was not his fault. The guards begin to question who Tirian really is and Tirian reveals his true identity as King of Narnia. Soon, they begin to fight with the Caloremene guards and there are soon no enemies left.

Jill asks the Dwarfs what is wrong and explains that the King says that the Ape is not going to rule over Narnia any longer. Everyone can go back to their lives and have fun again.

The Dwarfs ask who they are and Jill explains that she and Eustace are those who rescued King Rilian from enchantment and have returned from another world. Aslan sent them.

The Dwarfs look at them with sneering grins, not merry grins.

They feel like they have heard as much about Aslan as they want to for the rest of their lives.

The Dwarf named Griffle speaks, saying they do not want to be fooled again. Tirian says "Who am I that I could make Aslan appear at my bidding? He's not a tame lion." Then, the Dwarfs start to repeat his words in a song.

Jill explains they have seen the real Aslan and he sent them from a different world. The Dwarfs think that they are playing their own game and the Dwarfs tramp off into the darkness. Tirian and the others continue their journey silently.

Puzzle was still in disgrace. Jill was disgusted with the dwarfs, but impressed by Eustace's victory. Eustace's heart was still beating quickly. Tirian and Jewel walked sadly in the rear.

Tirian never considered that the Ape setting up a false Aslan would lead people not to believe in the real one. He thought the Dwarfs would rally at his side. It seemed like now, they could count on nothing.

Suddenly, there is a thump behind them and the sound of small feet. Poggin the Dwarf comes to them and managed to get away from the others. He is on Aslan's side and that

of Tirian. Somehow, the one Dwarf's arrival gladdened them and the whole party brightened up. Soon, Jill and Eustace were quite tired and ready for bed.

Puzzle and Jewel sleep outside and the rest sleep in bunks.

Poggin goes out early in the morning feeling refreshed before the others and goes to shoot pigeons. The Dwarf tells Eustace and Jill to gather a weed called Wild Fresny which tastes rather good when cooked. Tirian prepares branches for fuel. Tirian finds an outfit for Poggin and scolds Eustace for putting the bloody sword back into its sheath. Eustace cleans and polishes it.

Jill stirs the pot and looks out enviously at the Donkey and Unicorn who graze. She suddenly wished she could eat grass. Soon the meal was ready and it had been worth waiting for.

Tirian asks the Dwarf what tale is being told of Tirian's escape. Apparently the Cat, Ginger, said he was walking past and swearing and cursing Aslan and then Aslan appeared and swallowed Tirian up in one mouthful. The Ape followed it up to show what happens to those who do not respect him. He is using it to make those in Narnia more obedient.

The Dwarf explains that the Ape has taken to drinking and that the plot is now carried on by Ginger or Rishda, the Caloremene captain. The Captain and the Cat talk about the Ape and that they should make the Ape do their will as it would be better. They say they should choose their plans carefully.

The weather changes and it becomes cold and there is a foul smell.

## **Chapter Seven Analysis**

The presence of the Dwarfs in Chapter Seven reiterates the theme of freedom versus slavery as they are being sent to Tisroc to be enslaved. Even though Tirian shows the donkey and lion skin to the dwarfs, they don't care. This shows that they are not trusting of Tirian and the true Aslan, but also that they have their own plan to rule over themselves. It also shows the possible disbelief that may come from others in the future and that the Ape may have crushed belief in Aslan.

# Chapter Eight

## Chapter Eight Summary

Something is moving in the shadow of the trees, gliding slowly. At first, it looks like smoke, but it is grey. The smell was not of smoke. It has the shape of a man and the head of a bird with a cruel, curved beak. The grass seemed to wither beneath it.

Puzzle gave a screaming break and ran into the tower. Jill hid her face in her hands to shut out the sight of it. It then streamed away and disappeared and the sun returned and everyone started to breathe again.

Eustace asks what it was and Tirian said he only saw it once before, but that it was carved in stone with a gold overlay and solid diamonds as eyes. At the time, it was in the great temple of the Tash where the statue was carved above the altar.

It seems like there was a real Tash. The Dwarf says that the Ape is going to get more than he bargained for as he called for Tash and Tash has come. The Dwarf laughs, believing it will be a great surprise for the Ape as people should not call for demons unless they mean what they say.

They wonder if Tash will be visible to the Ape.

They look for Puzzle and then when they get sick of looking for him, he peers out and asks if it went away.

Puzzle says he sees what a bad donkey he has been and that he should not have listened to Shift, that he never thought things like this could happen.

Eustace says he should spend more time trying to be as clever as he could, but Jill interrupts him and kisses Puzzle on the nose.

Jewel did not have much to tell them, as he spent much of his time tied up near the stable and did hear of enemy plans. He had been kicked, beaten, and threatened with death unless he would say he believed it was Aslan who was brought out by the fire. He was going to be executed the next morning if it had not been for Tirian rescuing him.

The question is to decide whether to return to Stable Hill to show Puzzle to the Narnians and show them they had been tricked or to go Eastward to meet with Roonwit the Centaur.

Tirian would have liked to go back and show them what was really going on, but he believed the way that the Dwarfs reacted the night before was a warning and there were Calormene soldiers to deal with.

Poggin thought there were about 30 Calormene soldiers.

Tirian believed the risk of returning to Stable Hill was too great right now especially with Tash.

Poggin pointed out that the Ape should have to deal with his own difficulties for a day or two now, especially if the Beasts kept asking that Aslan be brought out.

They agreed the best plan was to try to meet Roonwit and everyone became more cheerful and "One always feels better when one has made up one's mind." (120).

Tirian said they should move their disguises and the Dwarf made up a mix of ashes from the hearth and grease from the jar and they went to the stream and lathered. They returned with red, shiny faces and re-armed themselves with Narnia weapons. When Tirian is done changing he claims "That is better. I feel a true man again."

Puzzle asks that they take the lion skin off him as he is hot and uncomfortable, but they say they want to show him in it to get up to the other beasts.

It was after 2 in the afternoon when they set out and it was the first warm day of the spring. They see primroses and the birds sing. It's hard to think of Tash and the children think this is really Narnia at last and Tirian's heart grows lighter too and hums an old marching song.

Poggin tells Eustace the names of the Narnian trees, birds, and plants that he did not know and Eustace tells him the English names.

Jill and Jewel walk together as Jill had fallen in love with the Unicorn. She thinks he was the most delicate and graceful animal she had seen and he was gentle and soft in speech. It could hardly be believed that he could be fierce in battle.

Jill says that she wishes there could be more of this adventure and that it is a pity there is always so much happening in Narnia. The Unicorn explains that the Sons and Daughters of Adam and Eve are brought out of their world into Narnia when Narnia is stirred and upset. It is not always this way in Narnia and there are years, hundreds and thousands of years of peace. He talks of Queens and heroes whom she never heard of, including Swanwhite the Queen who lived before the days of the White Witch and the Great Winter. The Unicorn explains she was so beautiful that when she looked into the forest pool the reflection of her face shone out of the water like a star by night for a year and a day afterwards.

Moonwood the Hare would sit by the Caldron Pool under the thunder of the waterfall and could hear what men spoke in whispers at Cair Paravel.

King Gale was ninth in descent from Frank, the first of all Kings sailed away. He went to the Eastern seas and delivered islanders from a dragon and they gave him part of the Lone Islands to be part of the lands of Narnia.

He discusses dances, feasts, and tournaments and how they were the only things that could be remembered for whole centuries. Jill says she hopes they can soon settle the



Ape so times can return to normal. Jill asks "Wouldn't it be lovely if Narnia just went on and on - like what you said it has been?" But Jewel says "all worlds draw to an end, except Aslan's own country."

They have all stoped walking and look up into the sky to see a Talking bird or perhaps an Eagle.

Tirian tells them to stand still as rocks, but they have already been sighted.

Tirian says for Jill to take the bow and arrow, but not to shoot until he bids her to as the bird may be a friend.

The eagle lands gracefully and with ease just a few feet from Tirian and then says "Hail, King." Tirian says he is glad that he is a friend of Narnia and not of the Ape and Calormen.

However, the eagle says that his news will not be good. Farsight explains that Cair Paravel is filled with dead Narnians and that Tisroc's banner advanced. Cair Paravel was taken from the sea with 20 great ships of Calormen in the dark of the night.

Five leagues are nearer than Cair Paravel and Roonwit the Centaur is dead with a Calormene arrow in his side. Roonwit gave the bird the message to give to King Tirian "to remember that all worlds draw to an end and that noble death is a treasure which no one is too poor to buy."

After a long silence the King says "Narnia is no more."

## Chapter Eight Analysis

The smell from the thing that flies overhead in Chapter Eight shows that it is dangerous and then Tirian recognizes it from the temple. This shows that Tash is not only real, but raises the question for the reader as to whether or not the character is evil. They go on to meet Roonwit only to be told the truth about Cair Paravel and Roonwit by Farsight the Eagle. This introduces another character to fight for Narnia.



# Chapter Nine

## Chapter Nine Summary

For a long time they did not speak and they couldn't shed a tear. The Unicorn stamped the ground and shook his name. The Unicorn says there is no need of counsel and that the Ape's plans run much deeper than they thought and he has long been involved with the Tisroc. Upon finding the lion skin, he sent word to make ready for the taking of Cair Paravel and Narnia. The Unicorn believes it is now time to return to Stable Hill and proclaim the truth and take the adventure.

Tirian nods and says that the children should return to their own world because they have done what they were sent to do. Jill, however, says that they have done nothing and shivers not with fear, but because everything was so bad.

Tirian says that they did what they needed, but that they are too young to share in a bloody end and Tirian commands them to return home. Tirian claims he would feel shame if there was such a young warrior who died in battle beside him.

Jill becomes white, then red, and then white again and says that they are going to stick with him whatever happens. Eustace agrees but says there is no need to get worked up about it. Eustace adds that they also do not have the magic needed to return unless it were for Aslan to whisk them away. Tirian says he wants them to go to Archenland where they may be safe.

Poggin says that Archenland would probably be taken then in the next week and that the Tisroc wanted to have the northern countries as well.

In the end, Eustace and Jill begged and Tirian said they could come with and take their chances.

The King's first idea was to not go back to Stable Hill, but the Dwarf explains that there was probably only a sentry at night and that the Beasts were too frightened by what the Ape and Ginger told them about this new Aslan to go near the stable.

Calormenes are also not good woodsmen.

Their focus is to give Narnians a sudden surprise.

They return and go in the direction of the hated hill and the Eagle flies sometimes back and forth. Sometimes the Eagle perches on Puzzle's back, but not even the king would dream of riding on a Unicorn.

Jill and Eustace walk together. They felt brave before, but not any longer. Jill is shaking and Eustace feels like he is going to be sick. They continue in silence and then talk about what will happen if they get killed and what will happen to them in their own world.

They talk about being smashed up by British Railways and that they thought it was the start of a railway accident and then they were in Narnia. As Jill and Eustace talk, the others discuss their own plans. The thought of Narnia's glories and joys were pushed into the back of their minds.

Poggin is cheerful and is pretty sure that Boar the Bear and the Dogs would come over to their side. He couldn't believe that the other Dwarfs would stick to Gruffle.

Why wouldn't they hide in the woods or even up in the Western Waste beyond the waterfall or live like outlaws. They could grow stronger and gain other forces if they waited and went into hiding.

Tirian heard all of this, but thought, "What about Tash?"

As they near Stable Hill, everyone grows quiet. After a couple of hours, they were all in a clump of holly trees 15 yards behind the stable and they ate and lay down and waited. The children slept for a couple of hours and then woke when the night became cold. They were thirsty, but could not get a drink. Tirian slept soundly like he was in a royal bed. The sound of a gong beating woke him up and he sat up and saw firelight on the far side of the stable and knew it was time.

Tirian asks if Jewel was ever offended by him so that he might be forgiven. The Unicorn says he wishes he had so he could forgive it, but that he would not choose another life than what he had. They woke up the Eagle who was asleep with his head beneath his wing and crept forward to the stable. Puzzle was left behind and was told that he should not move until someone comes back for him.

They approach the fire and there are Narnia creatures on the other side of it. Tirian could not see them well at first, but saw eyes shining with the reflection of the fire. When Tirian took his place, the gong stopped and three figures appeared. Rishda the Calormene Captain appear, the ape, and the cat. The Ape keeps whimpering not to go so fast and that he is not well. They were close to Tirian and could have seen him at once if they looked, but they didn't. It is set up like a theater and the Captain stood to talk to the crowd. Tirian and his friends were in a great place.

Rishda drags the Ape closer to the fire and they face the crowd and their backs are towards Tirian and his friends. He prods the Ape to speak and Shift mutters "Do leave me alone." Rishda starts to prompt the Ape about Tashlan and people hold their breath.

The Ape claims that something was dressed in a lion skin wandering the woods. Jill wondered for a minute if the Ape was going mad or if he was going to tell the truth and the Ape claims that it got away.

Sitting around the fire, they are now not too sure what to do and wonder what the good would be of showing them Puzzle in his lion skin and would just tear him to pieces. Poggin thinks that Ginger came to this new lie.

## Chapter Nine Analysis

They are devastated by the news, but they also realize that their plan is not going to work out, so they are stuck with making a new plan. This heightens the sense of urgency for the reader and also has the reader weigh the pros and cons of each option. Jill and Eustace also insist on going with Tirian and the reader wonders that if they have no way home, if it is because the battle will be the end of them. There is also a conflict between Rishda the Calormene Captain and the Ape as it becomes more clear that he is using him to his advantage now.

Rishda Tarkaan's character is also developed as he is involved in the plot against not only the Narnians, but also the Ape.

# Chapter Ten

## Chapter Ten Summary

Jill feels something tickling her ear and it is Jewel whispering to her. After she hears him, she tip-toes back to Puzzle and cuts the last cords that bound the lion skin to him. The skin is too heavy to bring with so she kicks it in the bushes. She signes for Puzzle to follow her and they join the others.

The Ape says that Aslan is not coming out any more because he is angry.

They warn the Dwarves that Ashaln is still in the stable.

Everyone becomes silent and then the Bear starts to question everything. The Ape says they can go in and see them. They want to go in and see Aslan face to face and they get excited.

The Ape threatens that they might get eaten by the lion and he invites Griffle to go in first.

The Beasts all just stand looking at one another and then back away from the stable.

Ginger says that he will go in and it is revealed that the cat is in on the plot and is at the center of it.

The cat goes in and then makes an awful sound and the Ape is knocked over by Ginger coming back out.

The Captain tells the Cat to talk and stop making that noise, but all the Cat does is continue to make the cat noises. The Bear explains that it has forgotten how to speak and has returned to being a dumb beast.

A great terror falls upon the Narnians. Everyone in Narnia had been taught that it was Aslan who turned the beasts of Narnia into talking beasts and told them that if they were not good, they would be turned back into witless animals.

The Beasts ask for Mercy. Ginger went further up into the tree and nobody saw him again.

Tirian stood with his hand on the sword hilt and his head bowed.

A voice calls from the crowd and it is the voice fo one of the Calormene in Tisroc's army. The common soldiers call the officers "My Master" and the officers call senior officers "My Father." Jill and Eustace did not know this, but then they see the speaker. One of the officers asks the Captain to go in.



The Captain claims that the stable is for the Narnians not the Tarkaans. The officer says that if Aslan and Tash are one, then Tash himself is inside and he says that he would "die a thousand deaths" to look on Tash's face.

The officer then questions the Captain further and claims that the Ape has lied to them. The Ape insists that he tells the truth.

The Dwarfs wonder why the Narnians would be allowed in but the Calormenes would be kept out.

Jewel whispers that the young man is worthy of a better god than Tash. Eustace wishes he knew what was really inside of the stable.

The man goes inside the stable and then falls out and is dead, but Tirian could see something that the other men could not, that it was not the same man, but that he was quite older and thicker and not as tall.

The Ape decides the Boar should have a turn and Tirian, impressed with the Beast's bravery decides to interfere. He orders the others to draw their weapons and they leap out.

Tirian reveals his identity and claims that Tash is a foul fiend and the Ape is a traitor and the Calormene are worthy of death.

## Chapter Ten Analysis

It is clear that they need to change their plan again because of the Apes' new story. Ginger the Cat is also involved. It is in this chapter that Tirian finally reveals his identity and that it is clear there will be a battle between the two sides. Hiding in the shadows will no longer work.

# Chapter Eleven

## Chapter Eleven Summary

Rishda Tarkaan leaps away from Tirian's sword. He is not a coward, but knew that he cannot fight against all of them single-handedly, especially since Eagles can fly into your face and peck at your eyes. He had also heard that no man could be a match for a Unicorn except with arrows or a long spear.

He rushes into the crowd and called for the warriors to fight. Tirian grabs the Ape by his scruff and throws him into the darkness of the stable. Suddenly, there is a greenish-blue light from inside the stable and the earth shook and the animals moaned and howled to be hidden from Tashlan. Farsight noticed the face of Rishda Tarkaan at the moment and the look of surprise and fright.

Every single Talking Dog (15 of them) came bounding and barking at the side of the king and all wanted to help.

The sight was lovely and was a reason to cry. Suddenly, other animals, including the Bear and the Boar come too, but not all of them come to the king's side and they fear Tashlan's anger. Tirian asks the Boar of the Talking Horses and is told they are being made to work and are tied at the bottom of the hill. Tirian orders the nibblers and gnawers to go set them free and bring them to him.

Tirian tells Jill to be on the left to shoot as many as she can before they can reach them. Tirian gives everyone orders where to stand and what to do. Tirian calls on Aslan for aid.

Eustace hopes and hopes that he will be brave, but he had never seen anything that made his blood run cold like the look of the Caloremene.

Eustace does not remember the next two minutes, as it was like a dream.

Eustace came to his senses to see the Calormenes scampering away and return to their commander. The Dwarfs jeer at them, saying the commander should come and fight.

Tirian orders the Dwarfs to use their swords, not their tongues. He calls on them to come back to their allegiance.

Soon, there is the sound of a Calormene drum, which means troops must be nearby that they are calling to their aid. It would be over for them if new enemies appeared. Tirian and Jewel look at each other with sadness.

Some Narnians were on the side of the Calormenes, but just sat there and others disappeared. Soon, there is the thunder of hoofs from the scores of Talking Horses of Narnia.



Poggin the Dwarf and the children open their mouths to cheer, but the cheer did not come. The air was soon filled with arrows and the Dwarfs are the ones shooting and they are shooting at the horses. The Dwarfs are deadly archers and horses after horse roll over. Not one of the Beasts reached the King.

The Dwarfs jeer back at Eustace to claim that the Dwarfs are for the Dwarfs and they do not want Tirian or the Calormenes to win.

They decide that their position is not that good as they could be encircled and decide to get away from the accursed stable.

Tirian gives everyone orders on where to fight and to join Jill at the white rock to have protection. Jill feels alone, but runs out about 20 feet and sets an arrow. Soon, the men drop their swords to defend their eyes. Jill is astonished to see how unprepared they seem and does not realize it is the result of her work and the Eagle's work. Few troops can keep on looking towards the front with arrows in their faces and their heads being pecked at.

Jill cheers them on and believes that even Eustace is fighting brilliantly. Jill thinks victory is in sight and then realizes that the Calormenes had been reinforced. Tirian tells them to go to the rock.

## Chapter Eleven Analysis

Rishda Tarkaan gets away, not because he is a coward, but because he wants to avoid the sword, the Eagle, and the Unicorn. This chapter shows the powers that animals have and the fear that they can instill in an enemy. Others soon come to Tirian's side, which gives him hope, but the Dwarfs killing the Talking Horses diminishes their hope.

The conflict between the Dwarfs and Eustace continues and it is clear that they want to stay away from the stable. It is clear that they are concerned after the events that went on there earlier.

# Chapter Twelve

## Chapter Twelve Summary

Jill realizes that she should have been back at the white rock already and turns to run to it, arriving just before the others. She turns back to see a Caloremene running towards the stable with something kicking and struggling. It was Eustace.

Tirian and the Unicorn rush to rescue him, but the Calormene was closer to the door and soon flung Eustace inside and shut the door. They formed a line on the open space of the stable. Jill turns her face aside to avoid getting the arrows wet.

Griffle and the Dwarfs soon start to shoot the Calormenes and Griffle repeats that the Dwarfs are for the Dwarfs. They wanted Narnia for themselves.

Rishda Tarkaan orders 30 to keep watch of the fools by the rock and the rest to go after the dwarves. Thankful for a brief rest, Tirian and the others look on, but it was hard to tell what was happening. Tirian could hear Griffle and then Tarkaan would yell to take them alive.

Tarkaan returns to the stable with the bound Dwarfs and tells them to throw the eleven into the stable for the burnt offering.

They found a little trickle of water from the rock all and had a drink while they watched the Dwarfs and the Calormenes.

Tarkaan claims that he will spare the Boar the Dogs and the Unicorn if they offer themselves to his mercy, but they will be caged and the unicorn will need to have his horn off and will draw a cart. The Eagle, the children, and the King will be offered to Tash.

Tarkaan orders them to attack the beasts, but to keep the two-legged ones alive.

The last battle of the last King of Narnia begins.

It was hopeless because of the numbers of the enemy and the spears.

Spears made all the difference as it is easier to kill while staying out of the reach of the enemy. Soon, they were fighting for their lives.

There is not much time to feel either frightened or sad. Tirian knew he could not do much now for the others. They were all doomed together. He saw the Boar go down and Jewel fighting furiously. Tirian sees Calormene pulling Jill away by her hair. His only thought was to sell his life. He soon finds that he is going further right near the stable. He has an idea that there is good reason for keeping away, but is not sure what that idea is.



All of a sudden, he drops his sword and goes beneath the sweep of Tarkaan's scimitar and grabs his enemy by the belt and jumps into the stable. He shouts "Come in and meet Tash yourself."

The Calormene screamed Tash's name and the earth shook and there was a blinding light. At first, Tirian did not know where he was or who he was and then he blinked and looked around. It is not dark and there is a strong light.

Rishda looks at him. Rishda wails and points, then puts his hand in front of his face and falls flat on the ground. Tirian looks where Tarkaan pointed and then understands. There is a figure coming towards him.

This was the same shape as from the Tower, but much smaller. It had a vulture's head and four arms. The beak was open and its eyes blazed.

The vulture asks why Tarkaan called him to Narnia and Tarkaan did not move and was shaking. His courage had left him.

With a jerk, Tash pounced on Rishda and tucked him under the upper two of his arms. Tash turned his head and looks at Tirian.

From behind Tash a voice says "Begone, Monster, and take your lawful prey to your own place: in the name of Aslan and Aslan's great Father the Emperor over the Sea."

The creature vanishes with Tarkaan under its arm. Tirian turned to see who was speaking and there are seven Kings and Queens before him.

Tirians bow to them and then gasp with amazement at the Queen when she laughs. It was Jill, but not as he had seen her, but cool and fresh. He then sees Eustace, who had also changed.

Tirian feels awkward at first being with them covered in blood, dust, and sweat and then in the next moment he is not in that state, but is also cleaned and dressed in clothes for a great feast.

Jill introduces Tirian to Peter the High King over all Kings in Narnia and Tirian kisses Peter's hand.

Tirian is also introduced to Lady Polly, who came to Narnia on the First Day when Aslan made the trees grow and Beasts talk.

Tirian then meets the man whose face was full of wisdom, Lord Digory. Then he meets King Edmund and Queen Lucy.

Peter says that Susan is no longer a friend of Narnia. Lady Polly speaks of Susan as wasting her school time wanting to be the age she is now and now she is wasting the rest of her life trying to stay that way.

Peter then points out the lovely fruit trees.

Tirian looks about and realizes how queer the adventure is.

## **Chapter Twelve Analysis**

In a split second decision, Tirian decides to take his chances and go against Rishda Tarkaan to bring him into the stable. The author says that the last battle of the last King of Narnia begins, so with this line it brings Tirian's fate into question and also emphasizes the risk if they lose the battle. Instead of joy, Tarkaan is filled with fear as his god, Tash appears and takes him.

The Kings and Queens of Narnia mentioned earlier are again introduced in Chapter 12.

# Chapter Thirteen

## Chapter Thirteen Summary

Tirian thinks that he is inside a little thatched stable, but they are on grass and under the deep blue sky. There is a grove of thickly leaved trees and the fruit makes him feel like it was autumn, but something in the air tells him that it cannot be any later than June.

Peter offers him the fruit from the trees.

Eustace asks King Peter about how they got here. Peter says that there is not much to tell and discusses the train and how it is coming around the bend too quickly.

Peter points at the door through which Tirian came through. Peter explains that if he puts his eye to the place where there is a crack between planks and looks through them. Tirian puts his eye up to the hole. He sees nothing, but blackness and then he saw the dull red glow of a bonfire and the stars.

He sees dark figures moving about and hears them talking and their voices are like those of the Calormenes. Tirian knows he is looking through the stable door into the darkness where he fought his last battle.

The men discuss whether to go in and look for Tarkaan, but they do not want to.

Tirian smiles and talks about how the stable seen from within and the stable seen outside are two different places.

The door opened for the first time and a big man entered with a naked sword. They could see that he was a Caloremene. Then there was Tash and the Cat came in and ran for its life. The man could see Tash and he turned pale and bowed down in front of the Monster, but it vanished.

Then, another Caloremene came in and the sentinel at the door started and they saw him. Eustace interrupts the story. The Cat was supposed to go out and say he had seen Tashlan and pretends to be frightened, but little did Shift know that the real Tash would arrive. Ginger came out frightened.

The Ape was thrown in and Tash made one peck and the Ape was gone.

Next, about a dozen Dwarfs came through, then Jill, Eustace and Tirian.

Lucy leads the way and they soon see all of the Dwarfs and they have an odd look. They were not enjoying themselves and were sitting in a circle facing each other. They did not look around or take notice until Lucy and Tirian were close enough to touch them.



Lucy says that even if there are eyes are wrong, perhaps the noise is alright and tells them to smell a flower. Diggle tries to hit her.

Tirian corrects Diggle and explains that she is Queen Lucy sent by Aslan out of the past. Tirian says that it is for her sake that he does not cut their heads because they are traitors.

Diggle reminds Tirian that Aslan did not come to help him and says that Tirian is at a new lie.

Tirian says that there is no black hole and Tirian swings him out of the circle of Dwarfs, but Diggle runs back and says that Tirian nearly broke his nose.

Lucy wants to know what to do for them. Eustace says to leave them alone and when he spoke, the earth trembled. Soon, the air smelled sweeter and a brightness flashed and there was Aslan himself. The others knelt in a circle around him. Aslan fixes his eyes on Tirian and Tirian flings himself at Aslan's feet and Aslan kisses him. Aslan says "Well done, last of the Kings of Narnia who stood firm at the darkest hour."

Lucy asks Aslan to do something for the Dwarfs. There is a low growl and the air shakes.

Aslan puts a glorious feast at the knees of the Dwarfs, like pies and tongues and pigeons and trifles. Each Dwarf had a goblet of wine, but it was not much use

as it was clear they could not taste properly. They say the food tastes of turnip and raw cabbage leaves. They raise the red wine to their lips and think its dirty

water from a donkey trough. They start to take food from one another and begin to quarrel.

Aslan shows that they will not let them help. They choose cunning instead of belief and they are imprisoned by their own minds.

He goes to the door and repeats "Time" and the door flies open.

## Chapter Thirteen Analysis

It is clear that they are now in a different place. There is fruit on the trees and there is a difference between the world outside the stable and the world inside of the stable. Aslan makes it clear that the Dwarfs have chosen to be imprisoned by their own minds and that despite his power, that he cannot help them out. The food they eat does not taste right and the red wine that they drink tastes like dirty water. They chose deception and cunning over belief.

# Chapter Fourteen

## Chapter Fourteen Summary

They stand by Aslan on his right side and look through the open doorway. The bonfire has gone out and the earth was blackness. When Aslan roars again, they see another black shape and it became the shape of a man. Jill and Eustace remember that there is a deep cave beneath the moors where there is a sleeping giant called Father Time. He would wake on the day that the world ended.

Aslan says "Yes" even though they did not speak.

The great giant raises a horn to his mouth and it has a high and terrible sound with a strange and deadly beauty.

The sky becomes full of shooting stars and there are dozens, then scores, then hundreds till it was like a silver rain. There was soon another dark shape against the sky in addition to that of the giant and it was right overhead.

There are no stars left as Aslan called them home. There are showers of glittering people who make a hissing noise as they land and burn the grass.

On the grass before them lay their shadows and the great thing was Aslan's shadow. Aslan's shadow was enormous and terrible.

The light from behind them was strong and it lit up the slopes of the Northern Moors. Enormous animals were crawling and sliding down into Narnia, including great dragons, lizards, and featherless birds with wings. They disappear and there is silence. Then there is the sound of wailing and rustling and the sound of wings. Then there is the scamper of feet, the padding of paws, and the clack of hoofs. Then there is thousands of pairs of eyes glimmering and creatures running for dear life, including Talking Beasts, Dwarfs, Satyrs, Fauns, Gaints, Calormenes, and others. They all come up to the doorway where Aslan stands.

It seems like a dream and nobody can say how long it had taken as they account for time differently. They all look straight in his face and their faces changed terribly. The fear and hatred only lasted for a moment and they ceased to talk and returned to being ordinary animals.

The children never saw them again. The animals came in at the door on Aslan's right. Eustace recognized some of the Dwarfs who helped shoot the Horses. Soon, there was Roonwit the Centaur, Jewel the Unicorn, the good Baor and the good Bear, Farsight the Eagle, the dear Dogs and the Horses, as well as Poggin the Dwarf.

Jewel leaned his white head over Tirian's soldier and Tirian whispered in his ear and then everyone turns their attention to what could be seen in the Doorway.



The Dragons and Giant Lizards had Narnia to themselves. They tear up the trees by their roots and crunch them up. The forests disappear and the whole country becomes bare and the grass died. Tirian found he was looking at a world of bare rock and earth and it was hard to tell that anything lived there. Monsters grew old and died and shriveled up and they were soon only skeletons.

Something white came moving towards them from the Eastern end of the world with a murmur then a rumble and a roar. It was a foaming wall of water as the sea rose. The lakes got larger and joined and valleys turned to lakes and hills turned into islands. The foam splashed about Aslan's feet. It grew light and dawn spread across the horizon and became brighter.

The Lord Digory and Lady Polly look at each other and nod and they know the sun is also dying as it was 20 times the size it should have been and dark red. Its rays fell upon the Time giant and turned red and in the reflection it looked like blood.

The Moon comes up in the wrong position close to the sun and also looked red and began shooting out flames, like whiskers or snakes of crimson fire. "It is as if he were an octopus trying to draw her to himself in his tentacles" (222).

Lumps of fire drop out into the sea and clouds of steam rise up.

Then Aslan said "Now make an end."

The giant throws his horn into the sea till his hand reached the sea and he took the sun and squeezed it like an orange and there was darkness.

Everyone except Aslan jumped back from the ice-cold air which blew through the door and turned into icicles.

Aslan orders Peter the High King of Narnia to shut the door.

Peter shivers and leans out and pulls the door and his hand goes numb and blue. He takes out a golden key and locks it. The things they saw through the door were strange, but it was strange that they were in the warm daylight with the blue sky above and flowers at their feet.

There is laughter in Aslan's eyes and he lashed himself with his tail and shot away.

They set out and walk Westward and follow him.

Lucy says she is sure it is not wrong to mourn for Narnia and she mentions all that lies dead and frozen behind the door.

Tirian says that it is okay to weep as Tirian saw his mother's death as he has known no other world, but Narnia. It would be a great discourtesy not to mourn.

They walk away from the Door and from the Dwarfs who sit in the imaginary stable and as they go they talk about the wars and peace and ancient Kings and glories of Narnia.

The Dogs are with them and they race ahead and rush off and smell the grass until they sneeze.

The Dogs smell a Calormene and the Dogs find a young Calormene sitting under a chestnut tree near the stream. It was Emeth and he rose and bowed.

Emeth calls to Peter as a noble friend or a noble enemy. Peter says he does not know if there should be any war between them.

Jill asks who he is and the humans sit down on the grass and the Dogs drink from the stream. Jewel polishes his horn.

## **Chapter Fourteen Analysis**

Father Time is awakened because it is the end of Narnia and it means the death of Narnia. Everything dies or disappears. Aslan called them home, which makes the reader wonder what home is now and if the stars will go to Aslan's country. Aslan tells Peter to close the door and they turn back. Lucy starts to mourn for Narnia, but as they turn back, the reader might wonder what is waiting for them and if what is waiting for them is better than the world left behind.

# Chapter Fifteen

## Chapter Fifteen Summary

Emeth explains that he is the seventh son of Hapha Tarkaan of the city of Tehishbaan. He is under the command of Rishda Tarkaan. He rejoices when he finds out that they are going to march upon Narnia, but feels shame when they find out they will be disguised as merchants and that they will work by lies and trickery. When he finds out that he is to wait upon a Monkey and it is said that Tash and Aslan are one, the world becomes dark in his eyes. The name of Aslan is hateful to him and he has served Tash since he is a boy.

He thinks that Tarkaan is deceived by the Ape for the thing is neither Tash nor any other god and changes his mind when he watches Tarkaan's face. He understands that he does not believe in Taash at all and that he mocks him.

He is furious but he hides his anger and holds his tongue. He waits to see how it will end. Then he explains that after the Cat goes in and comes out in terror, that "Surely the true Tash, whom they called on without knowledge or belief, has now come among us, and will avenge himself" (p. 227). Emeth's heart is turned into water because of the greatness and terror of Tash, and his desire is stronger than fear. So he offers himself and Tarkaan lets him go reluctantly.

As he goes into the door, he finds himself in this great sunlight and he is forced to fight against one of his own men. He understood that the Monkey and the Tarkaan sets him there to slay anyone who goes in and was therefore not a true servant of Tash. So, he slays the villan and casts him out through the door.

Then he looks and sees a sky and wide lands and begins to journey to the country to find Tash. Then, he meets a great Lion and falls at his feet. The Lion bends down his head and touched his forehead with his tongue and said "Son, thou art welcome" (p. 228).

The Lion explains that service to Tash is service done to Aslan. Then Emeth asks if what the Ape is saying was true that Aslan and Tash are one. The Lion growls and explains that it is false, not because they are one, but because they are opposites. The Lion contrasts between good service and vile service, saying, "Therefore if any man swear by Tash and keep his oath for the oath's sake, it is by me that he has truly sworn, though he know it or not, and it is I who reward him. And if any man do a cruelty in my name, then though he says the name Aslan, it is Tash whom he serves and by Tash his deed is accepted"(p. 231).

Emeth says yes and that though he has been seeking Tash all of his days all find what they truly seek.



Aslan then breathes upon him and the trembling from his limbs disappears and he can stand firmly. Then Aslan suddenly disappears. Emeth thinks that it is a marvel that Aslan called him "Beloved" and likes himself to a dog. This is a fashion of speech among Calormen.

A graceful creature on four feet and silvery gray comes to meet them and soon they recognize him as Puzzle. He is himself now, with a soft, grey coat and an honest and gentle face. Jill and Lucy rush to meet him and kiss his nose and stroke his ears.

They ask where he had been and Puzzle explains he was staying out of their way and out of Aslan's way. The sight of the lion made him feel ashamed and he was not sure if he could look in anyone's face. Puzzle at some grass and then followed them.

He questions what he will do when he meets Aslan.

They discuss where they are as it is not Aslan's country and Edmund says it is like somewhere in the Narnian world, like the mountains beyond the Waterfall.

They talk about the hills that look like the Southern border of Narnia. Edmund points out that it is Mount Pire and that there is the pass into Archenland.

They wonder how it can be.

Farsight the Eagle spreads his wings, soars into the air and circles and then lands on the ground. He then explains that he has seen it all and that Narnia is not dead, that it is Narnia.

Lord Digory explains that the Eagle is right and that when Aslan said they could never go back to Narnia, that he meant not the Narnia they were thinking of so there is not a reason to mourn Narnia. All of Narnia that mattered were drawn into the real Narnia through the Door.

He explains that it is all in Plato and then he wonders what is being taught at the schools.

The author explains the difference between the old Narnia and the new Narnia.

The Unicorn claims "I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia is that it sometimes looked a little like this" (page 241).

The Unicorn goes forward at a gallop and then everyone else starts to run and they found they could keep up with the Unicorn. Soon they went faster, but nobody was hot, tired or out of breath.

## Chapter Fifteen Analysis

Emeth's story makes it clear that some will end with love and devotion and others with fear and hatred. Emeth undergoes a sincere change in this chapter as he realizes that he is a sincere seeker even though he states that he is a Calormene and devoted to Tash. Aslan makes it clear that those who do evil go to Tash and those who do good go to Aslan. It sets up a juxtaposition between good vs. evil, not only as seen in the conflict in the book, but also in daily living.

We also learn that Tash is real and not just a fantasy. Tash is equivalent to the devil and those who are evil and serve Tash are destroyed by him.

# Chapter Sixteen

## Chapter Sixteen Summary

Eustace shouts for a special reason. He came before a Caldron Pool and beyond the Pool there are high and unclimable cliffs with thousands of tons of water coming down each second like diamonds. Farsight tilts his flight a little upwards and then plunges into the Pool.

They find they are swimming straight for the waterfall. Jewel reaches the foot of the Waterfall first and Tirian was just behind. Jill was last.

What looked the most funny was the dogs as they swarmed and wriggled.

Soon, they all were at the bank and were dripping, but happy.

They were out of Narnia now and up into the Western Wild which Tirian, Peter, nor the Eagle had ever seen. Lord Digory and Lady Polly had and they speak in steady voices without panting.

Tirian asks if the stories were true that they ventured here the day the world was made.

Digory says yes and that it seemed like just yesterday. They visited on a flying horse.

They go through the winding galley and up the steep sides of hills and down the other side and follow the river. They cross it and skim across mountain lakes as if it were a speed boat. They saw a smooth hill.

They soon reached great golden gates and they wonder if it is meant for them. Soon a horn blew and the gates swung open. Tirian stands and holds his breath and wonders who will come out. Then a bright-eyed Talking Mouse appears with a feather stuck in a circlet around its head. The Mouse also has a sword and bows and welcomes them in the Lion's name.

Tirian saw King Peter, King Edmund, and Queen Lucy rush forward to kneel and greet the mouse, whom they called "Reepicheep." Tirian breaths fast at the wonder of it and it was Reepicheep the Mouse who fought at the Battle of Beruna and sailed to the World's end with King Caspian.

Soon, a voice says "What, lad? Art thicker and taller since I last touched thee!" and it was Tirian's father. He is different than Tirian last remembered as he was a grey-headed warrior then and now his father is young and merry and remembered the little boy playing games in the castle garden before bed. Jewel decides to let King Erlian and Tirian speak with one another. He remembers the bright apples he was given as a colt. Soon, there came a noble and mighty horse, a winged horse. The horse's name was Fledge and Lord Digory and Lady Polly go to kiss it.



The Mouse urged them to come into the golden gates and it was a delicious smell that blew towards them. The place was larger than it seemed from the outside. Everyone seemed to be there, including Glimfeather the Owl, Puddlegum the Marshwiggle, King Rilian the Disenchanted, his mother, Caspian, Lord Drinian and Lord Berne, Trumpkin the Dwarf, Truffle hunter and others. They kiss and greet each other and they move forward to the orchard's center where the Phoenix is in a tree and looks down upon them.

At the foot of the tree are thrones and there is a King and Queen and everyone bows before them. These two were King Frank and Queen Helen, from whom the most ancient Kings of Narnian and Archenland descend. Tirian felt like they were being brought before Adam and Eve in their glory.

About a half an hour or 100 years later (time there is not like time here), Lucy stands with Faun Tumnus and looks down over the wall of the garden and sees Narnia spread out below. Then Lucy says that she sees as the garden is like the stable.

Faun calls her "Daughter of Eve" and says "The further up and the further in you go, the bigger everything gets. The inside is larger than the outside" (page 252).

Lucy looks hard at the garden and sees that it is not really a garden, but a whole world with rivers, woods, the sea and mountains. But, she knew them all as it is still Narnia, but is more beautiful than the Narnia below. It is "world within world, Narnia within Narnia..." (page 252)

Mr. Tumnus says it is like an onion in which each circle is larger than the last.

Lucy looks this way and that and as she looks, whatever she focuses on becomes much clearer as though she is looking through a Telescope. She sees the Southern Desert, Cair Paravel, and the window of the room once her own. She calls Peter and Edmund to look and as they look, their eyes become like hers.

They see England and the old house where the adventures began. Edmund says that he thought the house was destroyed.

Faun explains that they are "now looking at the England within England, the real England just as this is the real Narnia. And in that inner England no good thing is destroyed."

They look at another spot and they start to wave for they see their own parents waving back at them.

King Frank's horn sounds and they walk together in a bright procession higher into the mountains. There is no snow, just green forests, orchards, and waterfalls.

Aslan himself is coming, leaping down from cliff to cliff. Aslan first calls Puzzle the Donkey to himself and he looked as small as kitten beside a St. Bernard. The Lion bowed his head and whispered to Puzzle.

Aslan says that they are not as happy as they are supposed to be, but Lucy explains they are afraid of being sent away. Aslan explains that they should have no fear of that. Aslan explains that there was a railway accident and that they are all here, in the Shadowlands and the dream has ended and that it is morning.

As he speaks, Aslan no longer looks like a lion, but the things that happen are so great they cannot be written. This is the end of all the stories, but the author explains that they lived happily ever after and that their life in this world and their adventures had only been the cover and title page as they begin "Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before" (page 259).

## **Chapter Sixteen Analysis**

It is in the final chapter that Lewis expounds on the Biblical parallels, particularly the Book of Revelation. The author starts to explain how the true Narnia is in fact better than the one they left behind and Aslan addresses the fear of the characters that they may be forced to leave. the place they are now, is a real Narnia and a real England and that the Narnia they experienced was a mere shadow of what the real Narnia will offer.

# Characters

## Tirian

This is the last King of Narnia. Tirian is introduced at the beginning of the book and has a Unicorn for a best friend. He is the protagonist of the novel and needs to defend his kingdom against the Ape and the Calormenes. King Tirian is a well respected and skilled swordsman and is a descendant of Prince Caspian. Tirian witnesses a fraudulent exhibition and prays that he might be helped by the friends of Narnia. He leads an assault against the Caloremenes at the stable.

## Jewel

Jewel is a Unicorn and is also the best friend of King Tirian and he was never deceived by the false Aslan. He is captured and tied up behind the Stable and is set free by Tirian in the middle of the night.

## Roonwit the Centaur

Roonwit the Centaur is a reader of the stars and goes to Tirian to tell him the truth about Aslan. When a dryad appears and gives news about Lantern Waste, Roonwit the Centaur questions the King's wrath and Roonwit is sent to gather men and beasts to help. It is later discovered that Roonwit was killed, but that he was able to give Farsight the Eagle a message prior to his death.

## Jill and Eustace

Jill and Eustace are friends of Narnia and have already been to Narnia once. They return after Tirian prays for help while tied up to the tree. Jill and Eustace help free Jewel and Jill is able to find out the truth about Aslan, that it is really Puzzle. They refuse to return home. They do not have a way back and so they continue to help Tirian in his mission.

## Poggin the Dwarf

This is the last Dwarf to show loyalty to King Tirian after he and the other Dwarfs were held hostage by the Calormenes and were being marched into slavery. Poggin the Dwarf helps Tirian fight the Calormene.



## **Farsight the Eagle**

Farsight brings the news about the fall of Cair Paravel and the death of Roonwit the Centaur to Tirian and the others. He joins forces with them and is helpful in battle as he attacks the head and eyes of the Caloremene.

## **Aslan**

Aslan is the Great Lion and the Lord of Cair Paravel. Aslan makes an appearance at the end of the book when Narnia ends.

## **Tash**

Tash is the god of the Calormenes and is a skeletal figure with the head of a vulture and four arms.

## **Rishda Tarkaan**

Tarkaan is a Calormene and plots with Shift to take over Narnia. He is eventually taken by Tash.

## **Puzzle**

This is a donkey who is talked into wearing the lion skin.

## **Shift**

This is the Ape who influences the donkey to impersonate Aslan to gain control over Narnia. Shift is eventually devoured by Tash.

## **Emeth**

Emeth is a Calormene soldier who insists on entering the Stable and must fight for his life. He ends up meeting Aslan towards the end of the book even though he thought he was being faithful to Tash. Tash takes those who are evil while Aslan takes the good.

## **Ginger the Cat**

Ginger the Cat is in league with Shift and gains more power by being in league with the Calormenes against Shift.



## **Diggle**

Diggle is the leader of the renegade dwarfs and speaks for the entire group, except for Poggin.

## **Dryad**

The dryad comes to tell Tirian and his friends about the slaughter of the living trees.

## **Lord Digory**

This character dies in a train accident and is pulled into Narnia along with several other characters. He becomes young again and is able to take up a new life in Narnia.

## **Peter Pensevie**

Peter has a small role in the book and only address Tirian. Peter and Edmund go together to London to retrieve the magic rings. He is described as having the face of a king and a warrior.

## **Susan Pensevie**

This character is absent, but she is mentioned towards the end of the book and the reader is told that she is no longer a friend of Narnia.

## **Edmund Pensevie**

This character goes with Peter to dig up the magic rings and accompanies the others to Aslan's country. He was also killed in the train crash, but will live forever in Aslan's country.

## **Lucy Pensevie**

Lucy returns to Narnia with her brothers and witnesses the destruction of Narnia. She meets her old friend Mr. Tumnus the Faun again and Aslan tells her about the accident that occurred in which she died. Lucy was afraid of begin sent home, but Aslan explains to her that they will be there and that the real Narnia is the after life.

# **Objects/Places**

## **Cair Paravel**

Cair Paravel is where Tirian's castle is located. This is also the location of the four thrones of the Kings and Queens of Narnia. Caravel is surrounded and is attacked by the Tisroc of Calormen.

## **Lantern Waste**

This is the location of the talking trees that are felled.

## **Stable Hill**

Stable Hill is where much of the story takes place and is where Shift is holding the donkey to try to get everyone to do what he wants.

## **Tower**

The tower is where Tirian keeps some armor and weapons as well as some food. There are also bunks and there is a stream running nearby.

## **Western March**

This is a county under the kingdom of Narnia which is between the Lamp-post and the Great Waterfall.

## **Calormen**

This is a large country to the southeast of Narnia, which is separated from Narnia by a large desert and Archenland.

## **Archenland**

This is a nation to the south of Narnia and its borders are formed by mountains and a river winding to the south.

# Themes

## Christian Themes

C.S. Lewis was a convert and much of his writing has a correlation with Scripture. "The Last Battle" has references to the antichrist's reign of terror and the return of the savior who establishes his kingdom. The author gives hints to the Book of Genesis and the Book of Revelation through references to Adam and Eve, as well as Aslan as the Biblical Christ. It is the Ape that acts as a false prophet.

## Power of Deception

From the beginning of the book, the Ape uses his cunning over the donkey and sense an opportunity for gain. He sews the lion skin to that it will fit the donkey. Shift deceives not only the donkey that he is looking out for his best interests, but also deceives the creatures of Narnia who are fooled into believing that Aslan is delivering its citizens to the enemy.

## Good Vs. Evil

As the story advances, the theme of good verses evil is revealed as Tirian must try to save Narnia from the Ape's false Aslan and the Calormene.

## Freedom vs. Slavery

One of the main themes of "The Last Battle" are freedom and slavery, particularly in how Lewis depicts the Calormene, but also how the Ape sells them into slavery.

# Style

## Point of View

"The Last Battle" is primarily told in the third-person point of view. This means that there is a narrator telling the story. The author uses the names of the characters rather than using "I." The story is primarily told through description rather than the use of dialogue.

## Setting

The setting is placed within the forests of Narnia, where humans live in a primitive or fantasy society. The setting is started in The Chronicles of Narnia and is a world constructed by C.S. Lewis. Narnia is supposed to exist as one landmass with an eastern ocean and the landmass consists of Narnia, Archenland, Calormen, and Telmar. The author provides a glimpse into the true Narnia at the end of the book when Narnia ceases to exist.

## Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is constructed in a manner that was common in formal writing for the 1950's and is in keeping with much of Lewis' other writing.

The language Lewis uses allows the reader to glimpse into a world that involves talking animals. One interesting note is that the author chose to capitalize names, such as Talking Beasts, Dwarf, Centaur, Beaver, and others names.

## Structure

This novel is comprised of sixteen chapters. Each chapter has a the chapter number and then a line that refers to an action or event within the chapter that foreshadows what the reader is about to encounter. The chapters tend to be fairly short and there are no large gaps of time within each paragraph. The events happen with a short time frame.

The novel's pace is a little slow due to the author's use of long descriptive passages rather than dialogue and it lacks the use of sensory details. However, the novel is quite easy to read and the plot is engrossing once the reader is immersed in the story being painted in its pages. The story refers back to previous Kings and Queens and the friends of Narnia. However, much of the plot is focused on the conflict faced by Narnians.

## Quotes

"IN the last days of Narnia, far up to the west beyond Lantern Waste and close beside the great waterfall, there lived an Ape. He was so old that no one could remember when he had first come to live in those parts, and he was the cleverest, ugliest, most wrinkled Ape you can imagine. He had a little house, built of wood and thatched with leaves, up in the fork of a great tree, and his name was Shift. There were very few Talking Beasts or Men or Dwarfs, or people of any sort, in that part of the wood, but Shift had one friend and neighbour who was a donkey called Puzzle" (p. 5).

"It's a sign the other way. I was just going to say that if the real Aslan, as you call him, meant us to go on with this, he would send us a thunderclap and an earth-tremor. It was just on the tip of my tongue, only the sign itself came before I could get the words out. You've got to do it now, Puzzle. And please don't let us have any more arguing. You know you don't understand these things. What could a donkey know about signs?" (p. 18).

What, Lady! Felling Lantern Waste? Murdering the talking trees?" cried the King, leaping to his feet and drawing his sword. "How dare they? And who dares it? Now by the Mane of Aslan" (p. 24).

"But Roonwit said, "Sire, be wary in your just wrath. There are strange doings on foot. If there should be rebels in arms further up the valley, we three are too few to meet them. If it would please you to wait while" (p. 26).

"When Tirian knew that the Horse was one of his own Narnians, there came over him and over Jewel such a rage that they did not know what they were doing. The King's sword went up, the Unicorn's horn went down. They rushed forward together. Next moment both the Calormenes lay dead, the one beheaded by Tirian's sword and the other gored through the heart by Jewel's horn" (p. 33).

"Do you think I care if Aslan dooms me to death?" said the King. "That would be nothing, nothing at all. Would it not be better to be dead than to have this horrible fear that Aslan has come and is not like the Aslan we have believed in and longed for? It is as if the sun rose one day and were a black sun" (p. 35).

"If ever we loved one another, let me go with you now," said the Unicorn. "If you are dead and if Aslan is not Aslan, what life is left for me?"  
They turned and walked back together, shedding bitter tears" (p. 36).

"And now there's another thing you got to learn," said the Ape. "I hear some of you are saying I'm an Ape. Well, I'm not. I'm a Man. If I look like an Ape, that's because I'm so very old: hundreds and hundreds of years old. And it's because I'm so old that I'm so wise. And it's because I'm so wise that I'm the only one Aslan is ever going to speak to. He can't be bothered talking to a lot of stupid animals. He'll tell me what you've got to



do, and I'll tell the rest of you. And take my advice, and see you do it in double quick time, for he doesn't mean to stand any nonsense" (p. 42).

"Oh Aslan, Aslan," he whispered. "If you will not come yourself, at least send me the helpers from beyond the world. Or let me call them. Let my voice carry beyond the world." Then, hardly knowing that he was doing it, he suddenly cried out in a great voice,

"Children! Children! Friends of Narnia! Quick. Come to me. Across the worlds I call you; I Tirian, King of Narnia, Lord of Cair Paravel, and Emperor of the Lone Islands!" (p. 63).

"I remember now," said Tirian. "That too comes in all the old tales. The time of your strange land is different from ours. But if we speak of Time, 'tis time to be gone from here: for my enemies are close at hand. Will you come with me" (p. 66).

"Tirian looked sharply this way and that to make sure that no enemies were in sight. Then he walked up to the tower and stood still for a moment fishing up his bunch of keys which he wore inside his hunting-dress on a narrow silver chain that went round his neck. It was a nice bunch of keys that he brought out, for two were golden and many were richly ornamented: you could see at once that they were keys made for opening solemn and secret rooms in palaces, or chests and caskets of sweet-smelling wood that contained royal treasures. But the key which he now put into the lock of the door was big and plain and more rudely made. The lock was stiff and for a moment Tirian began to be afraid that he would not be able to turn it: but at last he did and the door swung open with a sullen creak" (p. 75).

"Of course it was pitch black inside and smelled like any other stable. Then I struck a light and - would you believe it? - there was nothing at all there but this old donkey with a bundle of lion-skin tied on to his back. So I drew my knife and told him he'd have to come along with me. As a matter of fact I needn't have threatened him with the knife at all. He was very fed up with the stable and quite ready to come - weren't you, Puzzle dear" (p. 92).

"By the Lion," he said, "I am growing slow witted! Meet them? Certainly we will meet them. We will meet anyone now. We have this Ass to show them. Let them see the thing they have feared and bowed to. We can show them the truth of the Ape's vile plot. His secret's out. The tide's turned. Tomorrow we shall hang that Ape on the highest tree in Narnia. No more whispering and skulking and disguises. Where are these honest Dwarfs? We have good news for them" (p. 94).

"Well," said the Black Dwarf (whose name was Gruffle), "I don't know how all you chaps feel, but I feel I've heard as much about Aslan as I want to for the rest of my life" (p. 99).

"As cunning a tale, Sire, as ever was devised," said Poggin. "It was the Cat, Ginger, who told it, and most likely made it up too. This Ginger, Sire - oh, he's a slyboots if ever a cat was - said he was walking past the tree to which those villains bound your Majesty. And he said (saving your reverence) that you were howling and swearing and

cursing Aslan: 'language I wouldn't like to repeat' were the words he used, looking ever so prim and proper you know the way a Cat can when it pleases. And then, says Ginger, Aslan himself suddenly appeared in a flash of lightning and swallowed your Majesty up at one mouthful. All the Beasts trembled at this story and some fainted right away. And of course the Ape followed it up. There, he says, see what Aslan does to those who don't respect him. Let that be a warning to you all. And the poor creatures wailed and whined and said, it will, it will. So that in the upshot your Majesty's escape has not set them thinking whether you still have loyal friends to aid you, but only made them more afraid and more obedient to the Ape" (p. 109).

"IN the shadow of the trees on the far side of the clearing something was moving. It was gliding very slowly Northward. At a first glance you might have mistaken it for smoke, for it was grey and you could see things through it. But the deathly smell was not the smell of smoke. Also, this thing kept its shape instead of billowing and curling as smoke would have done. It was roughly the shape of a man but it had the head of a bird; some bird of prey with a cruel, curved beak. It had four arms which it held high above its head, stretching them out Northward as if it wanted to snatch all Narnia in its grip; and its fingers - all twenty of them - were curved like its beak and had long, pointed, bird-like claws instead of nails. It floated on the grass instead of walking, and the grass seemed to wither beneath it" (p. 115).

"Then the great giant raised a horn to his mouth. They could see this by the change of the black shape he made against the stars. After that - quite a bit later, because sound travels so slowly - they heard the sound of the horn: high and terrible, yet of a strange, deadly beauty" (p. 210).

"Then Aslan said, "Now make an end."

The giant threw his horn into the sea. Then he stretched out one arm - very black it looked, and thousands of miles long - across the sky till his hand reached the Sun. He took the Sun and squeezed it in his hand as you would squeeze an orange. And instantly there was total darkness.

Everyone except Aslan jumped back from the ice-cold air which now blew through the Doorway. Its edges were already covered with icicles.

"Peter, High King of Narnia," said Aslan. "Shut the Door" (p. 221).

"The Lion growled so that the earth shook (but his wrath was not against me) and said, It is false. Not because he and I are one, but because we are opposites, I take to me the services which thou hast done to him. For I and he are of such different kinds that no service which is vile can be done to me, and none which is not vile can be done to him. Therefore if any man swear by Tash and keep his oath for the oath's sake, it is by me that he has truly sworn, though he know it not, and it is I who reward him. And if any man do a cruelty in my name, then, though he says the name Aslan, it is Tash whom he serves and by Tash his deed is accepted." (p. 231).

"I see," she said at last, thoughtfully. "I see now. This garden is like the stable. It is far bigger inside than it was outside."

"Of course, Daughter of Eve," said the Faun. "The further up and the further in you go,

the bigger everything gets. The inside is larger than the outside."

Lucy looked hard at the garden and saw that it was not really a garden but a whole world, with its own rivers and woods and sea and mountains. But they were not strange: she knew them all.

"I see," she said. "This is still Narnia, and more real and more beautiful than the Narnia down below, just as it was more real and more beautiful than the Narnia outside the stable door! I see... world within world, Narnia within Narnia" (p. 253).

## Topics for Discussion

What are the names of the two characters introduced during Chapter One of "The Last Battle?" What do their names imply? What do you think of their personalities? Do you think that the characters are believable?

Discuss why Tirian begins to believe the lie that Aslan is doing these things and his emotional reaction. What do you think that Tirian believes about freedom? Do you think that Tirian could have made a difference for the other creatures had he spoken up?

Why do you think that Lewis creates a conflict between Tirian and the Dwarfs? Why do you think that Poggin would go to Tirian's side?

Why do you think that earth time is different than the time in Narnia? Why do you think the passage of time is important for the telling of the story?

How do different characters offer Jill comfort? Are there similarities between that Jewel speaks to Jill and the way he speaks to other characters?

Do you think that Shift got what he deserved? What do you think about Rishda Tarkaan?

Why do you think that Tirian is surprised to find the a whole world inside a stable? How does Lewis describe the fruit? Why can't Aslan do anything else for the Dwarfs?

Why do you think that the stars are called home?

What role does Emeth play in the story? Why do you think that Aslan explains what happened to him? How did Aslan explain the events?

What do you think the author was trying to achieve through the reference to Plato?