The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

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The primary author is the individual who drafted the first version of this section; a section that could have been modified since it was originally published.

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe was published in 1950 and was written by C.S. Lewis, a notable British author. This book, known to be a children's allegory, took Lewis an astounding ten years to write. He destroyed the first draft because his friends, who were also authors, disliked it so much. It has since been made into multiple movies, the last of which was in 2005. The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe is the second and most well-known book in the Narnia series.

The story begins with four children—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—who live in England during World War II. They must flee London to the country to escape the bombings happening in the city. While in the house of an elderly professor, Lucy, the youngest, accidently discovers a whole new world called Narnia in a wardrobe. Narnia is filled with new and exciting creatures, fauns, and talking animals. Eventually all four of the Pevensie children find their way into Narnia through the wardrobe. Through a series of adventures they are thrown into a battle between the good creatures of Narnia and the evil White Witch and her armies. In their fight they are helped by a lion named Aslan, Son of the Emperor over the Sea, who is the real Lord of Narnia.

There had been an ancient prophecy that four queens and kings who were the sons of Adam and the daughters of Eve (humans) would come and end the winter that the Witch's domain had enslaved Narnia in for a hundred years. "Always winter and never Christmas." Aslan, the children, and the good creatures of Narnia ultimately defeat the White Witch and the children are crowned as kings and queens of Narnia.

The process of learning is like stepping through our very own wardrobe. There are unseen possibilities and new avenues to explore. The talents and unique personalities of each person leads to the creation of "new worlds," before left unexplored. Wardrobes can also be scary. We don't know exactly where they will lead. We have to have the courage to step through them, to explore new ideas.

The wardrobe was also made out of old wood. These new ideas that we wish to explore will be built on ideas that came before us. There are two aspects then to the courage of the wardrobe; looking ahead while knowing what is behind. This will lead to a system of learning that recognizes students not as machines, but as human beings with different talents and abilities. It will allow us to develop new ideas and treasure the ideas of those who came before, building on their wisdom and experience.
Suggestions for Further Reading