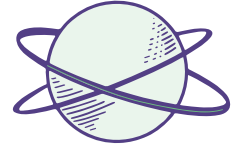




A WRINKLE IN TIME: POST-READING RESPONSE PROMPTS

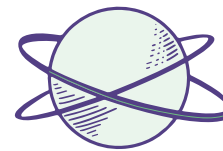


After you finish reading *A Wrinkle in Time*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

<p>A.</p>	<p>One of the themes of <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> is good vs. evil. Who or what in the book represents good, and who or what represents evil?</p> <p>The contrast of good and evil is often shown with lightness representing good and darkness representing evil. Characters that represent good include Meg, her family, Calvin, the Mrs Ws, Aunt Beast, and the Happy Medium. Characters that represent evil include IT, the Dark Thing, and the man with the red eyes.</p>
<p>B.</p>	<p>Describe Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who, and Mrs Which. Explain who they are and the role they play in the story.</p> <p>Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who, and Mrs Which are three celestial beings, initially appearing as women who live in a haunted house near the Murrys. They guide Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin throughout the story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Whatsit comes to the Murry house during the night and is first known as the tramp who stole the bedsheets from the neighbors. She appears as a small, strange woman before revealing that she isn't quite human. At one point, she transforms into a horse-like creature, and she later reveals that she was once a star. Mrs Whatsit is the youngest of the three celestial beings and has the strongest connection with the children. • Mrs Who accompanies the children on their journey to find Mr. Murry. She mostly speaks in quotations from famous writers and thinkers because she has difficulty expressing herself. Mrs Who wears glasses, which she gives to Meg as a gift on Camazotz. She suggests that the glasses will help in a moment of danger. • Mrs Which is the oldest of the three celestial beings, and she has difficulty materializing in human form. She is a shimmering gleam, and her words in the story are represented with many doubled- and tripled-letters (e.g., Tto all tthreee off you I give mmy ccommandd...), which suggests that her voice is distant and dream-like.
<p>C.</p>	<p>Charles Wallace is unlike most five-year-olds. Describe Charles Wallace, and explain what makes him so unique and special.</p> <p>While most five-year-olds enjoy the silliness and playfulness of childhood, Charles Wallace speaks like an adult, has the IQ of a genius, and is on a quest for knowledge. Though he didn't start speaking until he was 4 years old, and many others think he has a disability, he speaks in complete sentences and has a robust vocabulary—better than most adults. Charles Wallace also has a strange gift of being able to understand other people's minds and thoughts. He's especially tuned in to his mother and Meg, and it almost seems that he has superhuman powers.</p>



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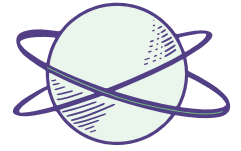


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<p>D.</p>	<p>Authors create conflict in their books to make them interesting and drive the story forward. Common conflicts in literature include character vs. character, character vs. nature, and character vs. self. In <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>, Madeleine L'Engle creates the conflict of Meg vs. self. Explain Meg's struggle with herself that she deals with throughout the story. How is the conflict ultimately resolved? Use details and evidence from the story.</p> <p>At the beginning of the story, Meg hates herself—she even says so to Calvin. She despises her looks and has problems at school when her anger and stubbornness get the best of her. Meg believes that she's a failure academically and socially, and she's impatient and full of self-doubt. Throughout the story, especially when tessering, Meg holds Calvin's hand and relies on the Mrs Ws for decisions and guidance. Her self-doubt stunts her independence. When Mrs Whatsit gives each child a gift on Camazotz, she helps Meg see that her faults, especially her tendency to be headstrong, can be her strengths. When Meg faces IT, her stubbornness helps her resist giving in to the evil power. There is a shift in Meg when she recognizes that she's strong enough to save Charles Wallace on her own, despite how scared she is. Meg uses her faults-turned-strengths to fight against IT and bring Charles Wallace home safely.</p>
<p>E.</p>	<p>The climax is the turning point of a story, often the most exciting or emotional part. It's usually when the main character's problem begins to be solved. What part of <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> do you think is the climax? Why?</p> <p>The climax of the story is when Meg finds and rescues her father on Camazotz. When Meg finds that Mr. Murry is being kept in a small cylinder inside a cell, she finds a way inside to save him. This emotional and intense moment is what Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin have been working for throughout the whole story. Students may also identify Meg rescuing Charles Wallace as a climax or turning point.</p>
<p>F.</p>	<p>Camazotz is a planet unlike any other in the story. Describe what life is like on Camazotz. Analyze why the people on this planet chose to give in to this way of life and stopped fighting the darkness. What are the benefits? What are the downfalls?</p> <p>Camazotz is a dark planet where IT makes its home. When the children arrive, the planet appears Earth-like—the people, houses, and landscape are familiar to Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin—and Meg believes there's "nothing strange, or different, or frightening, in the landscape." As the children walk through the town in search of answers and Mr. Murry, they learn the planet is full of darkness and evil. The people are exactly alike, controlled by the power of IT, and are conditioned to behave and live in a way where they have "freedom from all responsibility." Benefits of giving in to the darkness include being free from having to make decisions and take care of difficult or dull responsibilities. There's no conflict because everyone is the same, but a downfall is that there's also no joy. All of the inhabitants seem fearful of punishment, so the "freedom" that they chose to accept has imprisoned them.</p>



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G.

Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin visit several different places and planets throughout the story. Their journey includes a visit to Uriel, a brief stop on a two-dimensional planet, a visit to Orion's belt, and eventually to Camazotz. The story concludes with some characters visiting Ixchel, Meg's quick trip back to Camazotz, and the eventual return home to Earth. What is important about each of these visits?

- Mrs Whatsit, Mrs Who, and Mrs Which bring the children to Uriel to show them the shadow, or the Dark Thing, because the atmosphere is so thin and "it does not obscure your vision as it would at home." The kids learn more about the Mrs Ws, their powers, and the mission they're embarking on.
- The brief stop on the two-dimensional planet shows that Mrs Which forgets that humans need three dimensions to live and mistakenly causes the children significant discomfort by stopping there. This shows that the universe is full of complex places, many of which can be dangerous to the children. It also illustrates the unknown nature of their journey.
- The Mrs Ws bring the children to visit Orion's belt so they can look at their own planet in Happy Medium's crystal ball. Here, they learn about the shadow covering Earth and the efforts to fight against it. This visit is important in the children's journey because they can see the consequences Earth would face if they give in to the darkness, like the people on Camazotz.
- The children go to Camazotz to save Mr. Murry, and they learn about the danger of IT's darkness and evil. Meg learns that simply finding her father does not immediately fix all of her problems. They lose Charles Wallace to IT, and their mission changes.
- On Ixchel, Aunt Beast heals Meg after she becomes paralyzed from tessering with her father and Calvin. This is where the Mrs Ws return to help create a plan for saving Charles Wallace from IT. Meg learns that she has to complete the last part of this journey on her own.
- Meg's solitary trip back to Camazotz to save Charles Wallace teaches her that love is the thing she has that IT does not have. She uses love to save Charles Wallace. Meg also learns to embrace her faults and that she has the strength to do difficult things on her own.
- The family is reunited on Earth with Mrs. Murry and the twins, illustrating that Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin's ultimate goal is achieved. Everyone is united in love and joy, free from IT.

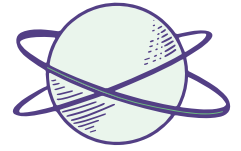
H.

The author creates suspense throughout the novel by detailing dangerous events. Which event do you think puts the characters in the most danger? Explain your thinking with reasons and details from the text.

Student answers will vary, but may mention the dangerous act of tessering without someone experienced with tessering. When Mr. Murry tesserers Meg, Calvin, and himself out of Camazotz to Ixchel, Meg becomes paralyzed, putting her future in danger. Students might also reference the danger of walking through Camazotz or coming in close contact with IT. Both of these situations put Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin in danger because they are strangers on the planet that's controlled by IT. If things had gone differently, they might not have been able to escape.



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After you finish reading *A Wrinkle in Time*, choose five of the following prompts to respond to.

I.

Mrs Who speaks in quotations throughout the story. Choose one of the following quotes and explain how it relates to the story.

- “The heart has its reasons, whereof reason knows nothing.” (chapter 2)
- “Faith is the sister of justice.” (chapter 2)
- “Nothing is hopeless; we must hope for everything.” (chapter 4)
- Mrs Who says “The heart has its reasons, whereof reason knows nothing,” as she responds to Charles Wallace’s reprimand for stealing Mrs. Buncombe’s sheets. She tells Charles Wallace that sometimes it’s hard to explain why someone wants or needs something, and later admits the truth about why she wants the sheets.
- When Mrs Who says “Faith is the sister of justice,” she urges the children to trust the Mrs Ws to know when the time is right to begin the journey to find Mr. Murry. As the children seek to find Mr. Murry and the truth, they must trust their guides.
- When Mrs Who says “Nothing is hopeless; we must hope for everything,” she encourages the children to remain hopeful, despite their stress and fear.

J.

Mrs Whatsit compares human life to that of a sonnet. She suggests that life has strict rules, much like a sonnet, but that people have the freedom to do what they want within the given confines or rules. This comparison touches on the theme of free will and fate. Throughout the story, the children’s actions are influenced and guided by either the Mrs Ws or IT. Analyze the difference between the influence the Mrs Ws and IT have on the children.

Student answers will vary, but may mention that the influence that the Mrs Ws have on the children comes from a place of love while the IT’s influence is driven by evil and ill will. While Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin lack free will in several parts of the book, the guiding forces are motivated by different things. The Mrs Ws guide the children across the universe to help them find Mr. Murry and bring him home. They teach the children helpful lessons about their strengths and vulnerabilities and how to use them for good. They offer warnings when needed, and they care for the children. On the other hand, IT’s manipulation is motivated by selfish reasons. IT tries to influence the children so that IT can have control and power over them, ultimately spreading its darkness over individuals and entire planets.