



A WRINKLE IN TIME: DISCUSSION GUIDE #2



Encourage critical thinking and support your students' literacy development by asking questions during reading. Here are some questions you can ask your readers to engage them in a discussion.

CHAPTERS 5–6

Chapter 5 - The Tesseract
Chapter 6 - The Happy Medium

Comprehension:

- What is a tesseract, and how does Mrs Who show how tessering works?
- What mistake does Mrs Which make in tessering to the next planet?
- How do the Mrs Ws ensure that Mrs. Murry won't worry about the children while they're traveling?
- Why do the Mrs Ws take Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin into the cavern on Orion's belt?
- What does the Happy Medium show the children, and what do they notice?
- What special gift or instruction does Mrs Whatsit give to each child to help them before parting ways?
- What item does Mrs Who give to Meg, and why?
- Describe what the children see when they first enter the town. What seems normal, and what seems unusual?

Analysis:

- Analyze Mrs Who's quote: "Experience is the mother of knowledge." Explain what the quote means and how it relates to Meg's experiences so far in the book.
- Read this sentence from chapter 6.

The children in our section never drop balls! They're all perfectly trained! We haven't had an Aberration for three years.

An **aberration** is a deviation, or difference, from what is considered normal or right. Why do you think Madeleine L'Engle capitalized "aberration" in this sentence?

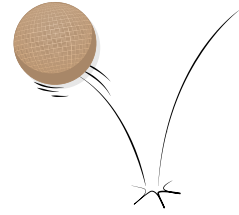
Personal Connection:

- When the children and the Mrs Ws say goodbye to the Happy Medium, Meg says, "It really helped ever so much because it made me mad, and when I'm mad I don't have room to be scared." Think about a time when you felt two strong, competing emotions. Which emotion triumphed, and how did it affect your situation? Explain.



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CHAPTERS 7–8

Chapter 7 - The Man With Red Eyes
Chapter 8 - The Transparent Column

Comprehension: _____

- Describe the interaction between the children and the man they confront at the Central Intelligence Center.
- What does the Man With the Red Eyes offer Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin, and how do the children react?
- Why is Meg unsure of what the Man With the Red Eyes looks like—young or old, cruel or kind, human or alien?
- Why does Charles Wallace hit the Man With the Red Eyes?
- Why does the food smell so good, even though it's artificial? Why does Charles Wallace's food taste like sand while the others enjoy a full-course meal?
- What are the signs that Charles Wallace is possessed and not himself?
- What does Charles Wallace first say to convince Meg and Calvin to join him, and how do they respond?
- What happens to people who are sick on Camazotz?
- Describe what the little boy who couldn't bounce the ball properly is doing and what happens to him.

Analysis: _____

- How can the men in business suits at the Central Intelligence Center look both similar and different at the same time?
- Why do you think the Man With the Red Eyes is so transparent with the children? Why do you think he doesn't use force against them?
- Explain how Charles Wallace's arrogance and pride lead to his downfall.

Personal Connection: _____

- Charles Wallace states that "Differences create problems." Explain a time when this statement has been true in your life, and explain a time when this statement has been false in your life.