



ANALYZING CHARACTERS IN

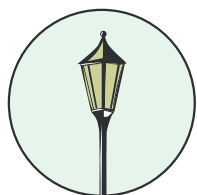


THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Read the following excerpt from Chapter 11 of C. S. Lewis's novel. Then answer the questions that follow. In this excerpt, Edmund is traveling through the forest with the White Witch. The Witch long ago proclaimed herself ruler of Narnia and enchanted the land so that it is always winter and never Christmas.

- 1 How Edmund hoped she was going to say something about breakfast! But she had stopped for quite a different reason. A little way off at the foot of a tree sat a merry party, a squirrel and his wife with their children and two satyrs and a dwarf and an old dog-fox, all on stools round a table. Edmund couldn't quite see what they were eating, but it smelled lovely and there seemed to be decorations of holly and he wasn't at all sure that he didn't see something like a plum pudding. At the moment when the sledge stopped, the Fox, who was obviously the oldest person present, had just risen to its feet, holding a glass in its right paw as if it was going to say something. But when the whole party saw the sledge stopping and who was in it, all the gaiety went out of their faces. [. . .]
- 2 "What is the meaning of this?" asked the Witch Queen. Nobody answered.
- 3 "Speak, vermin!" she said again. [. . .] "What is the meaning of all this gluttony, this waste, this self-indulgence? Where did you get all these things?"
- 4 "Please, your Majesty," said the Fox, "we were given them. And if I might make so bold as to drink your Majesty's very good health—"
- 5 "Who gave them to you?" said the Witch.
- 6 "F-F-F-Father Christmas," stammered the Fox.
- 7 "What?" roared the Witch, springing from the sledge and taking a few strides nearer to the terrified animals. "He has not been here! He cannot have been here! How dare you—but no. Say you have been lying and you shall even now be forgiven."
- 8 At that moment one of the young squirrels lost its head completely.
- 9 "He has—he has—he has!" it squeaked, beating its little spoon on the table. Edmund saw the Witch bite her lips so that a drop of blood appeared on her white cheek. Then she raised her wand. "Oh don't, don't, please don't," shouted Edmund, but even while he was shouting she had waved her wand and instantly where the merry party had been there were only statues of creatures (one with its stone fork fixed forever half-way to its stone mouth) seated round a stone table on which there were stone plates and a stone plum pudding.
- 10 "As for you," said the Witch, [. . .] "let that teach you to ask favor for spies and traitors. Drive on!" And Edmund for the first time in this story felt sorry for someone besides himself. It seemed so pitiful to think of those little stone figures sitting there all the silent days and all the dark nights, year after year, till the moss grew on them and at last even their faces crumbled away.





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Answer the questions about the characters in the excerpt from
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.



1. Based on the introduction and Edmund's thoughts at the opening of the excerpt, what can you infer about Edmund's attitude?

- a. He is excited to be on the journey.
- b. He is annoyed by the animals.
- c. He is angry at the Witch.
- d. He is concerned about his own comfort.

2. **PART A.** What can you infer about the Witch's character based on the change in the animals' behavior when she arrives?

PART B. Give two examples of the animals' behavior after the Witch arrives that support your answer to part A.

Example 1: _____

Example 2: _____

3. **PART A.** In a few words, how would you characterize the young squirrel who speaks to the Witch?

PART B. Explain your answer to part A.

4. **PART A.** After the squirrel speaks, the Witch turns the animals to stone. Does her action surprise Edmund, or does he seem to expect it?

PART B. Which of the following phrases from the excerpt supports your answer to part A?

- a. "Oh don't, don't, please don't."
- b. "... you shall even now be forgiven."
- c. "He has—he has—he has!"
- d. "Who gave them to you?"

5. How does Edmund change from the beginning to the end of the passage? What causes this change? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

6. How might this experience change Edmund's attitude moving forward? Explain your answer.
