

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Chapters 1–6

by C. S. Lewis

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: assume, beasts, chiefly, consideration, distress, inquisitive, logic, resumed, stern, superior

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–6 · Four children sent to the Professor's house

Section 2 · Chapters 7–12 · The children alone in the snowy woods

Section 3 · Chapters 13–17 · Edmund and the Witch travel on

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1. Let's assume it will rain and take umbrellas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. announce to everyoneB. hope very muchC. suppose without proof <p>2. You laughed at me when I fell—you are all beasts!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. silly foolsB. cruel, unkind peopleC. loud show-offs <p>3. He came chiefly to see his cousin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. mainlyB. brieflyC. eagerly <p>4. Her plan deserves serious consideration before we vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. strong supportB. careful thoughtC. public praise <p>5. She called for help, her voice full of distress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. worry and upsetB. wild excitementC. sudden anger | <p>6. Our inquisitive neighbor noticed the new car right away.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. proud of the neighborhoodB. friendly with everyoneC. eager to find things out <p>7. Logic helped her figure out which switch worked the lamp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. a sudden helpful hunchB. patient trial and errorC. careful step-by-step reasoning <p>8. After a short rest, they resumed their long walk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. hurried through the rest ofB. began again after a pauseC. gave up in the middle of <p>9. The guard's stern face made us stop talking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. severe and forbiddingB. tired and worn outC. calm and thoughtful <p>10. He gave a superior smile when he heard my answer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. acting better than othersB. keeping something secretC. trying to seem friendly |
|--|---|

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

blue-bottle — a large buzzing fly — the room holds nothing but a dead one
Son of Adam — Narnian speech for a human boy; a human girl is a Daughter of Eve
dominions — the lands a ruler governs — the Witch is claiming Narnia as hers
beastly — British slang for horrible and nasty; Peter is calling Edmund cruel, not animal-like
pay you all out — get revenge on you all; nothing to do with money

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	C
2	B
3	A
4	B
5	A
6	C
7	C
8	B
9	A
10	A

Vocabulary in Context
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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “Mr. Tumnus! Mr. Tumnus!” said Lucy in great distress. “Don’t! Don’t! What is the matter? Aren’t you well? Dear Mr. Tumnus, do tell me what is wrong.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘distress’ most nearly means...

- A. worry and alarm
- B. puzzled curiosity
- C. impatient annoyance

2 “Her face was white—not merely pale, but white like snow or paper or icing-sugar, except for her very red mouth. It was a beautiful face in other respects, but proud and cold and stern.”

In the passage, the word ‘stern’ characterizes the woman as...

- A. shy and reserved
- B. sad and worn out
- C. hard and unwelcoming

3 “... he thought only of trying to shovel down as much Turkish Delight as he could, and the more he ate the more he wanted to eat, and he never asked himself why the Queen should be so inquisitive.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the boy ignored the Queen’s inquisitiveness because...

- A. he was too polite to object
- B. he was too tired to notice
- C. he was too greedy to care

4 “He decided to let Lucy down. ... And Edmund gave a very superior look as if he were far older than Lucy (there was really only a year’s difference) and then a little snigger ...”

In the passage, Edmund’s ‘very superior look’ characterizes him as...

- A. looking out for his sister
- B. looking down on his sister
- C. jealous of his sister

5 “She stuck to her story and said: ‘I don’t care what you think, and I don’t care what you say. ... I know I’ve met a Faun in there and—I wish I’d stayed there and you are all beasts, beasts.’”

As used in the passage, the word ‘beasts’ most nearly means...

- A. loud, boastful show-offs
- B. large wild animals
- C. cruel and unkind people

6 “‘That is a point,’ said the Professor, ‘which certainly deserves consideration; very careful consideration.’”

It can reasonably be inferred that the Professor...

- A. means to weigh the point seriously
- B. is confused by the point raised
- C. is politely brushing the point aside

7 “‘Logic!’ said the Professor half to himself. ‘Why don’t they teach logic at these schools? There are only three possibilities. Either your sister is telling lies, or she is mad, or she is telling the truth.’”

According to the passage, the Professor uses logic to...

- A. narrow the choices to three
- B. show that Lucy cannot be trusted
- C. prove that Lucy must be mad

8 “You know she doesn’t tell lies and it is obvious that she is not mad. For the moment then and unless any further evidence turns up, we must assume that she is telling the truth.”

Which detail best supports the claim that the Professor’s assumption is temporary?

- A. Lucy’s obvious sanity
- B. the chance of new evidence
- C. Lucy’s honest reputation

9 “There was a dead silence. ... There seemed, indeed, no more to say, and presently the four resumed their journey; but Edmund was saying to himself, ‘I’ll pay you all out for this, you pack of stuck-up, self-satisfied prigs.’”

According to the passage, what did the four do after the silence?

- A. went on with their journey
- B. turned back the way they came
- C. stopped to settle the quarrel

10 “‘Where are we going anyway?’ said Susan, chiefly for the sake of changing the subject.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Susan’s asked her question in order to...

- A. hurry the group along
- B. ease an uncomfortable moment
- C. learn where they were headed

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	
2	C	
3	C	
4	B	
5	C	Lucy is name-calling, not describing creatures. Worth a pause in a book where 'beast' elsewhere means a literal talking animal — the sense a reader picks here has to come from who she is shouting at.
6	A	
7	A	
8	B	The Professor is not claiming to know — he is settling on the best available explanation until something better turns up. That gap between assuming and knowing is the whole point of his 'unless any further evidence turns up.'
9	A	
10	B	Students often read 'chiefly' as 'only.' It signals a main reason among several — Susan may well want an answer too, but that is not what moved her to speak.

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–6

Lucy discovers Narnia through the wardrobe and meets Mr. Tumnus; Edmund follows and meets the White Witch. Eventually all four children get in together and find Tumnus's cave ransacked, then set off after the robin. The break groups the six discovery chapters, ending as the children commit themselves to the forest.