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The Magician’s Nephew

1. Many of Narnia’s fantastical creatures are personified; name some of them. Which human qualities are most celebrated? Which are not?

2. Elements of fantasy and real life are intermingled in the worlds of Charn and Narnia. What are some characteristics of each world that exemplify this combination? What makes these worlds so different from each other?

3. Although they are children, both Polly and Digory have very distinct personalities. By portraying Polly and Digory the way he did, what message(s) might Lewis have been sending to children about stereotypical and nonstereotypical behavior?

4. Since Uncle Andrew and the Witch are both proponents of magic, ostensibly it is portrayed in a bad light. How is magic celebrated?

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe™

1. Each of the children undergoes some changes throughout the course of the novel. Discuss how these changes impact their characters. How does sibling interaction shape both them and the plot?

2. Symbolism is quite prevalent in this book. Discuss what Narnia and Aslan symbolize and how their portrayals shape Lewis’s message. Who or what else is symbolic? How?

3. In agreeing to sacrifice himself in Edmund’s place without divulging to the White Witch that he could return, Aslan might be considered somewhat deceitful. What other variances are there on the traditional definitions of good and evil?

4. When Lucy tries to minister to her wounded brother, Aslan rushes her along to tend to others. Does the theme of the greater good vs. the individual arise elsewhere in the story? What other themes arise?

The Horse and His Boy

1. At first glance, Bree and Hwin fit into very conservative gender roles. Which of their actions demonstrate a break from these behaviors? How does each of them demonstrate their goodness? What flaws does each possess?

2. With a reliance on material goods Lasaraleen provides a sharp contrast to Aravis. What are some of Lasaraleen’s admirable qualities? Do you think Aravis and Susan should be considered strong female role models? Why or why not?

3. Shasta undergoes a metamorphosis of character and identity. How do various factors or characters cause or help him to change? What truths about human nature are revealed in the process? What is Aslan’s role?

4. Loyalty, tolerance, idealism, materialism, and parental roles all play roles in this book. Are these subjects always treated favorably? Do you agree with these treatments?

Prince Caspian

1. Contrast the Narnia of this story with that over which the children ruled. How does the Narnian passage of time impact the novel?

2. Prince Caspian befriends many Narnian creatures. Which two Old Narnians would you want as royal subjects? Why?

3. What might have been the purpose of including Bacchus in this story? What other mythological or symbolic characters appear? Why?

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