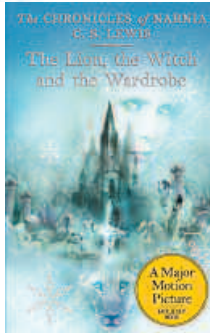


THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

Worksheet 1

The Creation of Narnia



The Author

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe is one of seven stories in The Chronicles of Narnia series written by Clive Staples Lewis. C. S. Lewis was accomplished in creating fantasy stories from a young age. As well as making up characters and stories, Lewis invented a long history for 'Animal-land' and drew maps of its geography. He would often tell his brother these stories sitting in their grandfather's old wardrobe.

The Inspiration

C. S. Lewis was inspired to write children's books when evacuee children were sent to stay with him during the Second World War. As they did not know many stories, Lewis decided to make up tales for them himself, using the image of a faun carrying parcels and an umbrella in a snowy landscape as a starting point. One day, one of the evacuee girls saw a wardrobe in Lewis' house and asked him what was behind it. Thus the gateway to Narnia was born.

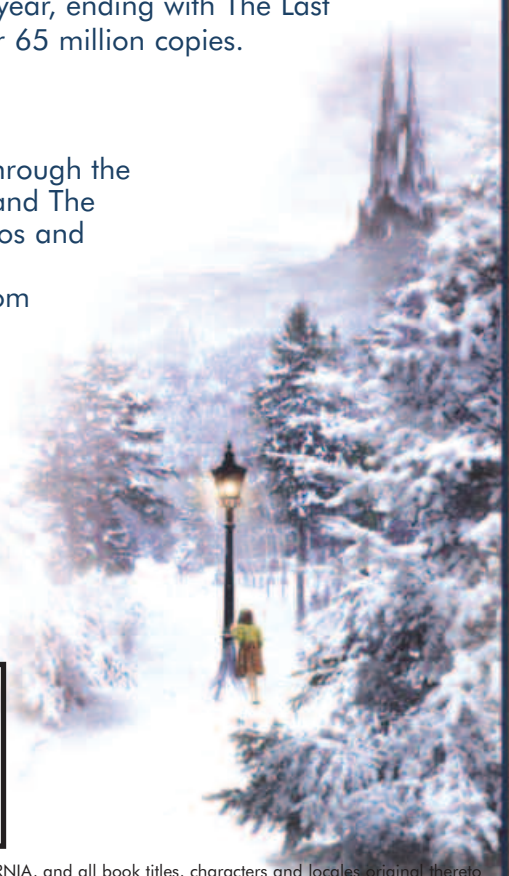
The Chronicles

In 1950 Lewis wrote his first book about the land of Narnia, The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. He went on to publish one book about Narnia every year, ending with The Last Battle, the seventh book, in 1956. The books have now sold over 65 million copies.

The Film

Lewis' chronicles have been brought to life for a new audience through the medium of film. The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe is an epic adventure film created by Walt Disney Studios and Walden Media.

When Lucy, Edmund, Susan and Peter Pevensie are evacuated from London during WWII they are sent to live with a mysterious professor in the countryside. While playing hide-and-seek, Lucy discovers the world of Narnia in a dusty old wardrobe. The land is under the spell of the evil White Witch Jadis and is locked in an eternal winter where Christmas never comes. When the children venture into Narnia they discover talking beasts, dwarfs, fauns, centaurs, giants and a magnificent lion, Aslan, who is the true ruler of Narnia. With Aslan's help the children fight to overcome Jadis' powerful hold over Narnia and free it from her icy spell.



Task

Brainstorm the differences between books and films and how they tell stories. What can the new films bring to the Narnia Chronicles?

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Worksheet 2

From Book To Script

Creating a film from a classic children's book like *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* is a complex adaptation process whereby screenwriters have to re-interpret the story for a new audience, whilst staying true to the themes of the original book. Adapting such a well-loved tale is a challenge as expectations are high.

Scriptwriting

Film scripts differ to storybooks in the way the story is set out. In *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* the story is told through the eyes of the narrator with imaginative descriptions of Narnia, details of the children's thoughts and feelings and explanations of the passing of time. In the film version dramatic images replace the narrator and the script uses short sentences to describe the environment which will be used as prompts for the production team.

Film scripts are very precise, containing only the characters' dialogue and the information needed to explain the location of the event. Each event is divided into scenes which are started with the location name and time of day.

The script extract below is from the film *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* and demonstrates how scripts are constructed and laid out.

19. INT. THE WARDROBE – DAY
A sliver of light splits the darkness. Lucy peers through the crack into the room. She backs into the coats. Layers of fur surround her.

PETER (O.S.)
Ninety-seven...

She puts out her hand, feeling for the back of the wardrobe. She pushes in.

LUCY
Ouch.

She pulls back her hand, then reaches out again, confused.

She takes another step and hears...A CRUNCH.

She crunches forward. HER BREATH STEAMS. Slowly, the darkness around her lifts.

Lucy stops. She stares, amazed...

AT A PINE CONE HANGING FROM A TREE BRANCH.

Snow falls all around her.

Task

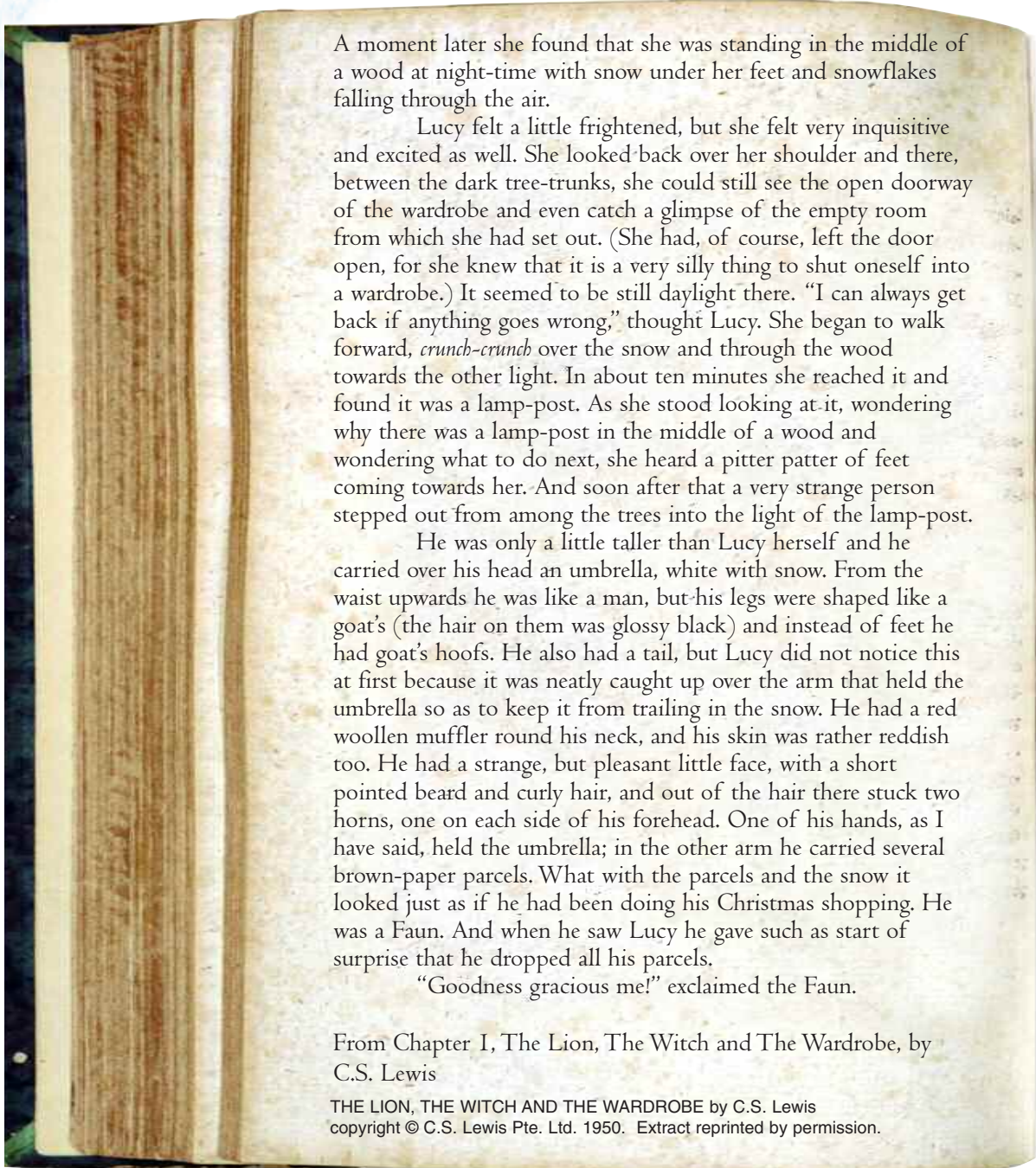
Make a list of the locations that are described in the script extract. Where would filming need to take place? What special or sound effects would be needed to enhance the story?



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Worksheet 3

Screenwriting



A moment later she found that she was standing in the middle of a wood at night-time with snow under her feet and snowflakes falling through the air.

Lucy felt a little frightened, but she felt very inquisitive and excited as well. She looked back over her shoulder and there, between the dark tree-trunks, she could still see the open doorway of the wardrobe and even catch a glimpse of the empty room from which she had set out. (She had, of course, left the door open, for she knew that it is a very silly thing to shut oneself into a wardrobe.) It seemed to be still daylight there. "I can always get back if anything goes wrong," thought Lucy. She began to walk forward, *crunch-crunch* over the snow and through the wood towards the other light. In about ten minutes she reached it and found it was a lamp-post. As she stood looking at it, wondering why there was a lamp-post in the middle of a wood and wondering what to do next, she heard a pitter patter of feet coming towards her. And soon after that a very strange person stepped out from among the trees into the light of the lamp-post.

He was only a little taller than Lucy herself and he carried over his head an umbrella, white with snow. From the waist upwards he was like a man, but his legs were shaped like a goat's (the hair on them was glossy black) and instead of feet he had goat's hoofs. He also had a tail, but Lucy did not notice this at first because it was neatly caught up over the arm that held the umbrella so as to keep it from trailing in the snow. He had a red woollen muffler round his neck, and his skin was rather reddish too. He had a strange, but pleasant little face, with a short pointed beard and curly hair, and out of the hair there stuck two horns, one on each side of his forehead. One of his hands, as I have said, held the umbrella; in the other arm he carried several brown-paper parcels. What with the parcels and the snow it looked just as if he had been doing his Christmas shopping. He was a Faun. And when he saw Lucy he gave such a start of surprise that he dropped all his parcels.

"Goodness gracious me!" exclaimed the Faun.

From Chapter I, *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis

THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE by C.S. Lewis
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Task

Above is an extract from the book *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*. Using the script extract as a guide, produce your own screenplay for this section of the story.

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Worksheet 4

From Script To Screen

Once the film script has been written, artists are brought in to produce a storyboard. Storyboards provide a visual map of the film's story. They usually include details on the setting of the scene, character positions, camera angles and sound effects. The production team will refer to the storyboard for each scene when they are filming. A storyboard is made up of sketched images representing a few seconds of filmed action.

The storyboard artists have to think about the camera shots for that scene. For example, if the camera will show the expression of a character's face close up or from a distance. The choice of camera angle and type of shot is important to the way the audience will react to what is shown on screen.

Here are some technical terms that storyboard artists have to think about when designing each shot:

- A close-up puts us very close to someone or something and is often used to show the facial-expressions.
- A mid shot is used to show us the top half of someone's body and a little bit of the background setting.
- A long shot is often used to show us where the action is taking place.
- A low angle shot of a person makes them seem large, powerful and threatening.
- A high angle shot is when the camera looks down on someone making them look very small and vulnerable.

Camera movement also adds to our involvement in the action, e.g. a tracking shot is when the camera follows the action, moving along tracks; a crane shot is when the camera is mounted on a crane and it moves around above ground level.

Task

Create your own storyboard for The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe using your script extract describing Lucy's discovery of Narnia.

Read through your script and break it down into sections that can be shown visually in your storyboard. You will need to select information and decide carefully what you want the audience to see and how. Think about how you will convey Lucy's feelings through the sound and images.

Use the storyboard outline available on www.filmeducation.org to record your images.


www.narnia.com


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