

WALT DISNEY PICTURES AND WALDEN MEDIA PRESENT

# THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA PRINCE CASPIAN

## A BIOGRAPHY OF C S LEWIS

Clive Staples Lewis (known as 'Jack') was born on November 29, 1898 in Belfast, Ireland, the younger of two sons. In 1908, when Lewis was nine, his mother died and he was sent to a strict boarding school in Hertfordshire. He missed Ireland very much and was able to return there when his boarding school closed. However, after only a year at home, he was sent to study at a school in the spa town of Malvern, because of his ill health. At the age of 15, C S Lewis went to Surrey to be privately tutored by his father's old schoolmaster.

In 1917, Lewis went to University College, Oxford, but after five months, war broke out and he was sent to Keble College to undergo officer's training. At the age of 19, Lewis fought on the front line at the Battle of the Somme, but was wounded in April 1918 and returned to Oxford to complete his degree.

C S Lewis decided to devote his life to the study of ideas, and taught philosophy at University College, later moving to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he was to teach Language and Literature for 29 years. In 1955 he started teaching at Magdalene College, Cambridge. At Oxford, Lewis was a member of a group of friends called the Inklings, which included J R R Tolkien and Neville Coghill. It was during this time that Lewis wrote his Chronicles of Narnia books, reading them to Tolkien for comment.

Lewis also wrote many books about Christianity, having become a Christian late in life. The most famous of these is *The Screwtape Letters*, a collection of letters from a devil to his nephew instructing him on how to tempt man. He also wrote numerous books of literary criticism and some science fiction novels.

Late in life C S Lewis married a poet, Joy Gresham, but after four years of marriage she died of cancer, prompting Lewis to write a book on bereavement called *A Grief Observed*. C S Lewis died on 22 November 1963, aged 64.



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# NARNIA

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## BIOGRAPHY

Notice how the biography of C S Lewis began. What key information do we learn first? What area and period of Lewis' life does each paragraph focus on? Imagine this was an autobiography of C S Lewis that he wrote himself, except the final sentence of course. How would the language change?

Now research another popular children's author and write a biography. Think carefully about how you structure your paragraphs.

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Four horizontal lines for writing.

Four horizontal lines for writing.

Four horizontal lines for writing.

Four horizontal lines for writing.



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