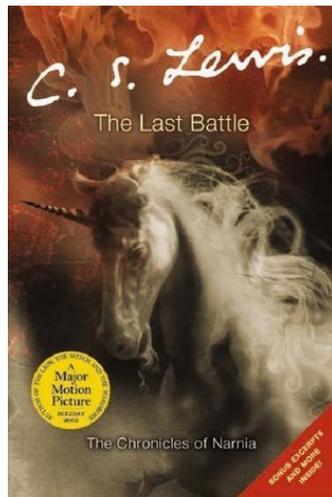


The Last Battle



By

C.S. Lewis

A Novel Study
by Nat Reed

The Last Battle

By *C.S. Lewis*

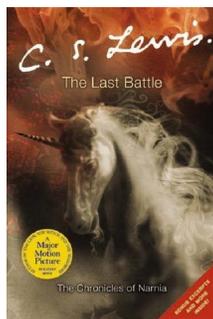


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About the author: Nat Reed was a member of the teaching profession for more than 35 years. He was a full-time instructor for nine years at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program. For more information on his work and literature, please visit the websites www.reedpublications.org and www.novelstudies.org.

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The Last Battle

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Suggestions and Expectations

This curriculum unit can be used in a variety of ways. Each chapter of the novel study focuses on two chapters of *The Last Battle* and is comprised of five different activities:

1. Before You Read
2. Vocabulary Building
3. Comprehension Questions
4. Language Activities
5. Extension Activities

Links with the Common Core Standards (U.S.)

Many of the activities included in this curriculum unit are supported by the Common Core Standards. For instance the *Reading Standards for Literature, Grade 5*, makes reference to

- a) determining the meaning of words and phrases. . . including figurative language;
- b) explaining how a series of chapters fits together to provide the overall structure;
- c) compare and contrast two characters;
- d) determine how characters . . . respond to challenges;
- e) drawing inferences from the text;
- f) determining a theme of a story . . . **and many others.**

A principal expectation of the unit is that students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and oral communication, as well as in reasoning and critical thinking. It is important, too, that students be encouraged to relate their own feelings and experiences in certain contexts, and describe their own interpretations of particular passages.

- Students can work on the activities at their own pace.
- **Every activity need not be completed by all students.**

A **portfolio cover** is included as well as a **Checklist** to keep a record of completed work.

Themes which may be taught in conjunction with the novel include Christian symbolism, loyalty and friendship, courage and sacrifice, mercy and justice, good versus evil.

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List of Skills

Vocabulary Development

1. Locating descriptive words / phrases
2. Listing synonyms/homonyms
3. Identifying / creating *alliteration*
4. Use of capitals and punctuation
5. Identifying syllables
6. Identify *personification*.
7. Identify *anagrams*
8. Listing compound words
9. Identifying parts of speech
10. Identify/create *similes*
11. Identification of root words

Setting Activities

1. Summarize the details of a setting

Plot Activities

1. Complete a *time line* of events
2. Identify conflict in the story
3. Complete Five W's Chart
4. Complete a Story Pyramid
5. Identify the climax of the novel.

Character Activities

1. Determine character traits
2. Identify the protagonist/antagonist
3. Relating personal experiences
4. Compare characters

Creative and Critical Thinking

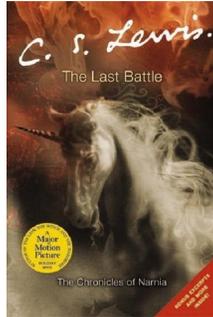
1. Research
2. Write a newspaper story
3. Participate in a talk show
4. Conduct an interview
5. Create a poem
6. Write a description of personal feelings
7. Write a book review
8. Complete an Observation Chart
9. Complete a KWS Chart
10. Create a friendly letter.

Art Activities

1. A Storyboard
2. Create a collage
3. Design a cover for the novel
4. Create a comic strip

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Synopsis

The conclusion of the saga that began with **The Magician's Nephew**... Narnia ... where dwarfs are loyal and tough and strong -- or are they? ... where you must say good-bye ... and where the adventure begins. The Unicorn says that humans are brought to Narnia when Narnia is stirred and upset. And Narnia is in trouble now. A false Aslan roams the land. Narnia's only hope is that Eustace and Jill, old friends to Narnia, will be able to find the true Aslan and restore peace to the land. Their task is a difficult one because, as the Centaur says, 'The stars never lie, but Men and Beasts do.' Who is the real Aslan and who is the imposter? [Courtesy of the Publisher]

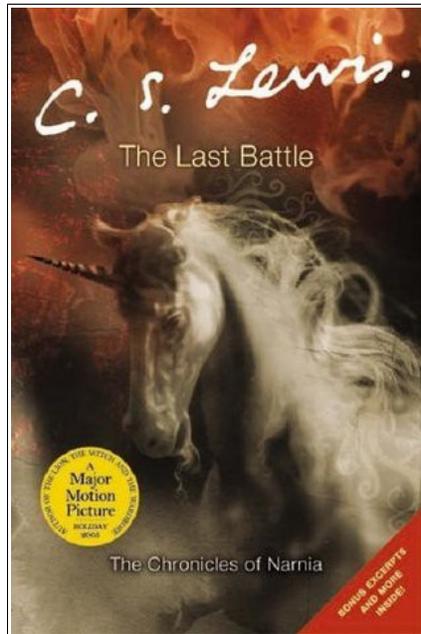
Author Biography

C.S. Lewis

C.S. Lewis. Clives Staples (Jack) Lewis was born in Belfast, Ireland in 1898. He was a close friend of J.R.R. Tolkien (**Lord of the Rings**) when both men were faculty members at Oxford University in Oxford, England. Dr. Lewis was a devout Christian who wrote many books defending and explaining his faith. In 1956, he married the American writer Joy Gresham, who died four years later of cancer at the age of 45. Lewis's works have been translated into more than 30 languages and have sold millions of copies. **The Chronicles of Narnia** have sold the most and have been popularized on stage, TV, radio and the movies. Lewis died on Nov. 22, 1963 - the same day that President Kennedy was assassinated.



The Last Battle



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Name: _____

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Chapters 1-2



Before you read these chapters:

The protagonists (the heroes or 'good guys') of *The Last Battle* are Eustace and Jill, two young people who are called back to Narnia during desperate times. . Think back on some of your favorite characters from past novels that you have read or movies you've seen. What qualities do you look for in an admirable protagonist? Come back to this question after you have read a few chapters to see if Eustace and Jill measure up to the qualities you selected.



Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

pannier	offended	respectful	brisk	rash
wretched	centaur	disastrous	conjunction	nymph

1. The donkey moved at a _____ trot down to the riverbank.
2. A _____ is a legendary creature which is half man and half horse.
3. We met our guide at the _____ of the Peace and Mackenzie Rivers.
4. The result of their feeble attempt was simply _____.
5. A _____ is a tree spirit.
6. The children filled the old man's _____ with biscuits.
7. I thought your impetuous actions were very _____, given the dire circumstances.
8. Stricken with a cold and fever, my mother was soon feeling most _____.
9. "I was quite _____ by her very public insult," Princess Margaret complained.
10. The principal urged all of the students to be _____ to their guest speaker.

Questions

1. What is the **setting** of the story at the beginning of Chapter One?

2. Describe your first impressions of the following characters supported by evidence from the novel.

Shift	
Puzzle	

3. What did Shift and Puzzle find in the Pool? What did Shift plan on making from it?

4. Why did Puzzle object to Shift's plans?

5. What do you think motivated Shift to send Puzzle to Chippingford for oranges and bananas?

6. Once Puzzle had been fitted with the lion's skin, what plans did Shift unveil to him?

7. The title of Chapter Two is, *The Rashness of the King*. How did King Tirian act rashly in this chapter?

8. What good news were Tirian and Jewel discussing as Chapter Two begins?

9. What evidence did Roonwit offer to the King that some great evil hung over Narnia?

10. According to the Centaur, who made the stars?

11. What disastrous news was brought to the King by the nymph of the beech-tree?

12. Who were the men who were felling the trees? What were they doing with the trees – and under whose orders?



Language Activity

A. Personification is giving human qualities to something that is not human. Here's an example from Chapter Two: “*But I know there are liars on earth; there are none among the stars.*”

Describe how the stars are personified in this example.

Create your own example of personification.

If you come across another example of this literary device in the novel, come back to this question and enter it here.

B. Antonyms, Synonyms or Homonyms

Beside each pair of words write **A** (antonym) or **S** (synonym) or **H** (homonym). A word from each of these pairs appears in the first two chapters of the novel.

a)	horse - hoarse		f)	mane - main	
b)	witless - intelligent		g)	grave - carefree	
c)	hideous - repulsive		h)	delight - captivate	
d)	waste - waist		i)	pomp - ceremonial	
e)	grief - joy		j)	tales - tails	

C. Anagrams

An **anagram** is a word that is formed by changing the order of the letters of another word. For example, the letters in the word **WAS** can also form the word **SAW**. Follow these directions to form the anagrams:

a) read the clue in the right-hand column.

b) Using the word in the left-hand column move the letters around in any order, but you must use all the letters. All of the words in the left-hand column can be found in the first two chapters of *The Last Battle*.

Word	Anagram	Clue
beard		Slang for cold, hard cash.
weather		Cover or encircle something.
spoke		Prods.
delight		Ignited.
great		Price again.
page		Stare with open mouth.
heads		Shelter from direct sunlight.
raised		Repeat.

Now find two additional words from the first two chapters which have interesting anagrams and see if you can stump a classmate.

Word	Anagram	Clue

Check out the official website of C.S. Lewis

<http://www.cslewis.com/us/>

Extension Activity



A. A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words

Use the three boxes to describe and illustrate the beginning, middle and end of Chapters 1 and 2.

Beginning Picture	Beginning
Middle Picture	Middle
Concluding Picture	Concluding

B. A Quatrain About Making Rash Decisions

The **quatrain** is a popular form of rhymed verse. It is a poem of four lines, is usually light and humorous. The following quatrain is a poem written by the acclaimed poet, Atrocious Halitosis. It is called **Rash Decisions**.

*Stop and think real hard, my friend,
Before you jump in the deep end.
Make sure your trunks are on real tight,
Or you'll give the girls an awful fright.*



Various rhyming schemes make up a quatrain poem. As you can see, the above four lines have a rhyming scheme of **A – A – B – B**. Other rhyming schemes include: ABAB, AAAA, AABA, ABBA, ABBA, and AAAB.

Your task is to write your own quatrain poem. You may choose a rhyming scheme that fits with your own personal creation. The topic should have something to do with the themes established in the first two chapters of our novel.

The Quatrain Poem

Now create your own Quatrain Poem on a subject of your choice. Your poem must follow the format of a quatrain poem described above (and must rhyme).

Title: _____

Here is a quatrain by C.S. Lewis from the poem, ***The Meteorite***.
More of his poems can be found on the website, best-poems.net

Lullaby! Lullaby!
There's a tower strong and high
Built of oak and brick and stone,
Stands before a wood alone.