

# A Christian Teacher's Guide

by Christin Ditchfield

# The Chronicles of NARNIA

novels by C. S. Lewis





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## Meet the Author

Clive Staples Lewis was born on November 29, 1898, in Belfast, Northern Ireland. When he was four years old, he changed his name to “Jacksie”—and refused to answer to anything else! Jack’s older brother Warnie was his constant companion and closest friend. They spent countless hours exploring the forests and fields around their country home. On rainy days, they climbed up into an old wardrobe and told each other stories about knights, magic kingdoms, and talking animals that lived in faraway lands.

Jack was only nine when his mother, Flora, was diagnosed with cancer. He fervently prayed for a miracle, pleading with God to heal her. But Flora died, and Jack felt betrayed. He turned his back on God completely, dismissing religion and the teachings of the Christian church as foolishness.

During World War I, Jack was sent to the front lines in France, where he was wounded in battle. He returned home to complete his education, becoming a professor of medieval and Renaissance literature at Oxford. Lewis developed a reputation as a distinguished scholar and literary critic. About this time, he began engaging in heated intellectual debates with professors who were Christians, including fellow author J. R. R. Tolkien. These friends and co-workers challenged Lewis to rethink his beliefs. At the age of 31, after a lengthy struggle, the avowed atheist became a devout Christian.

Later Lewis wrote *Surprised by Joy*—a kind of spiritual autobiography that described his journey to faith. Then books such as *Mere Christianity* and *The Screwtape Letters* brought Lewis worldwide fame. In the 1950s, Lewis wrote a series of seven childrens’ books called *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Immediately best sellers, Lewis’s fairy tales are now widely regarded as “classic literature”—considered to be among the greatest children’s books ever written.

Lewis had no children of his own. He remained a bachelor until the age of 58, when he met and



married American writer Joy Davidman. When Joy died of cancer only four years later, Lewis looked after her two teenage sons.

On November 22, 1963, the world was reeling over the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In the light of that tragedy, Lewis’s death—from a long illness—was barely noticed.

To date, C. S. Lewis’s books have sold more than 200 million copies and have been translated into 30 languages. He is routinely quoted by preachers and professors, presidents and prime ministers. Many of the most prominent leaders of the Christian faith today readily acknowledge having been profoundly influenced by the man *Time* magazine called “a young atheist poet who became one of the twentieth century’s most imaginative theologians.”

CD-204050 • A Christian Teacher’s Guide to *The Chronicles of Narnia*



# An Introduction to *The Chronicles of Narnia*

In each of these books, there are what Lewis called “stories within the stories”—profound spiritual truths and powerful life lessons. Keep your eyes open as you begin your own adventures in *The Chronicles of Narnia*!

**Book One: *The Magician’s Nephew*** Mad scientist Andrew Ketterly gives his nephew, Digory Kirke, and neighbor-girl, Polly, two magic rings to transport them into worlds beyond our own. Digory hopes to find a cure to save his dying mother. Instead, he meets a great Lion who sends him on an important quest. Will Digory obey Aslan’s instructions, even when he doesn’t understand—or will he listen to the secrets of a sorceress who promises to fulfill his wildest dreams?

**Book Two: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe***\* The four Pevensie children stumble through the door of a mysterious wardrobe, only to find themselves in Narnia—a magical land held captive by the White Witch. It’s she who makes it “always winter and never Christmas.” But the children’s appearance fulfills a prophecy signaling the end of the Witch’s reign. And Aslan is on the move. Could it be that Narnia’s deliverance is at hand?

**Book Three: *The Horse and His Boy*** The four Pevensies rule the Golden Age of Narnia. But in Calormen to the south, an orphaned peasant boy, a nobleman’s daughter, and two talking horses plan a daring escape from a land of slavery. As their journey begins, the runaways uncover a treacherous plot that could spell disaster for Narnia and all of its creatures. Will they manage to warn the Kings and Queens in time?

**Book Four: *Prince Caspian*** On their way to school after the holidays, the four Pevensie children suddenly find themselves back in Narnia—a thousand years after they first reigned. Dark times have fallen on their former kingdom. Evil men rule the land, and the Talking Beasts have gone into hiding. Young Prince Caspian wants to set things right, but he needs the Pevensies’ help to defeat the wicked uncle who has stolen his throne.

**Book Five: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*** Edmund, Lucy, and their cousin Eustace join King Caspian on an epic adventure to find the nobles that his Uncle Miraz banished from the kingdom long ago. Along the way, they’ll meet slave traders, sea serpents, and stars who walk the earth, as Reepicheep the mouse urges them all on to the end of the world—where he hopes to find Aslan’s Country.

**Book Six: *The Silver Chair*** King Caspian’s only son has disappeared. Prince Rilian was last seen in the company of a beautiful enchantress. Wise old Narnians believe the prince has been kidnapped by one of those “northern witches” plotting to overthrow their country. The great Lion, Aslan, sends Eustace and his schoolmate Jill on a quest to find and rescue the captive prince before it’s too late.

**Book Seven: *The Last Battle*** Eustace and Jill learn that King Tirian needs help. Narnia has fallen into the hands of its enemies, the Calormenes. And the one behind its surrender appears to be Aslan himself! This cruel, vicious taskmaster is nothing like the great Lion in the stories of old. Is it possible that he has changed so much? Or is this a deadly deception that will lead to Narnia’s destruction? Can Narnia be saved?

\* *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* was actually the first book C. S. Lewis wrote about Narnia. Later he wrote six more, including a prequel explaining how the world of Narnia came to be. At Lewis’s suggestion, publishers renumbered the series to reflect the chronology of the stories themselves, rather than their publication dates.

# Using This Teacher's Guide

By taking advantage of students' tremendous interest in fantasy literature—and providing them with some truly fun and creative activities that build on the skills they may already have—*A Christian Teacher's Guide to "The Chronicles of Narnia"* can assist you in maintaining student excitement for independent reading. It can also help you explore some of the many spiritual principles presented in the novel and guide your students to a better understanding of profound biblical truths.

We recommend that you use these pages in ways most appropriate for your students and classroom setting. For example, some advanced students and older classes may be able to answer the comprehension questions in a test format, while others may need to tackle them in a group or with an open book. Questions could also be asked aloud as starting points for group discussions.

**Vocabulary Words** Begin by reading the appropriate chapters in *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Then with the help of a dictionary, students match the vocabulary words to the definitions provided. You may prefer to have older students look up and record the definition of each word themselves. In that case, simply cover the definitions on the right side of the page before copying and distributing to the students.

Additional ways to use the vocabulary words:

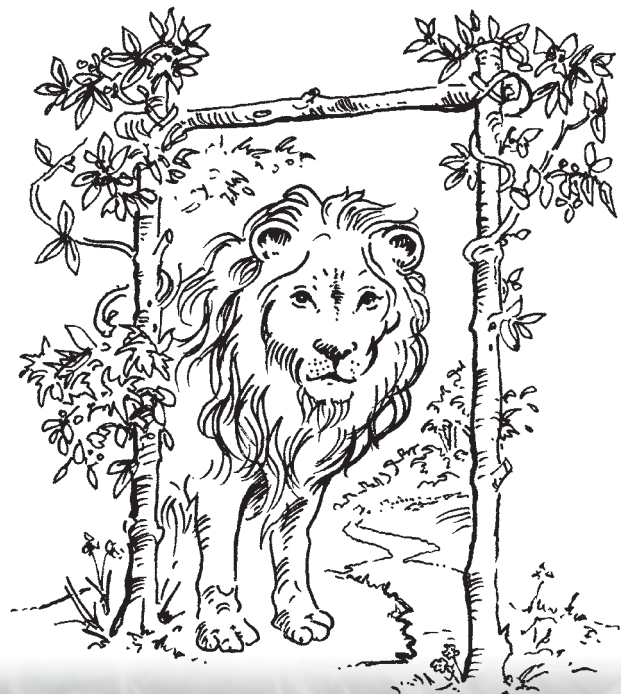
- ✦ Have students keep a record of the different pages on which they find the words.
- ✦ Have a vocabulary bee. Let students try to either spell or define the words.
- ✦ Let students describe the context clues that helped them figure out the definitions.
- ✦ Look up words in different dictionaries and compare the definitions; compare the meanings of British words with their American or Canadian meanings.

**Comprehension Questions** These questions range from recounting simple facts to determining character motivation, foreshadowing, and consequences. They can be used as discussion starters, journal prompts, or homework assignments. They may also be used on tests or quizzes.

**The Story within the Story** These sections emphasize the biblical parallels and principles found in the novel—the spiritual symbolism and allegory. Students will need to have access to a Bible to look up specific Scripture references.

**Bonus Activities** As with all activities in this book, these activities may be completed individually or in a group—out loud or on paper. Some activities lend themselves to group projects, while others are more suited for individual completion. Modify the activities in ways that seem most appropriate.

Caution: Before completing any food activity, ask families' permission and inquire about students' food allergies or other food preferences.



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# Creating a Journal

Keeping a journal is a great way for students to reflect on and respond to *The Chronicles of Narnia* in a personal way. They can record their responses to the activities in this teacher's guide, as well as their own thoughts and ideas, artwork, and poetry. A journal helps students keep their work organized and encourages them to do even more writing on their own.

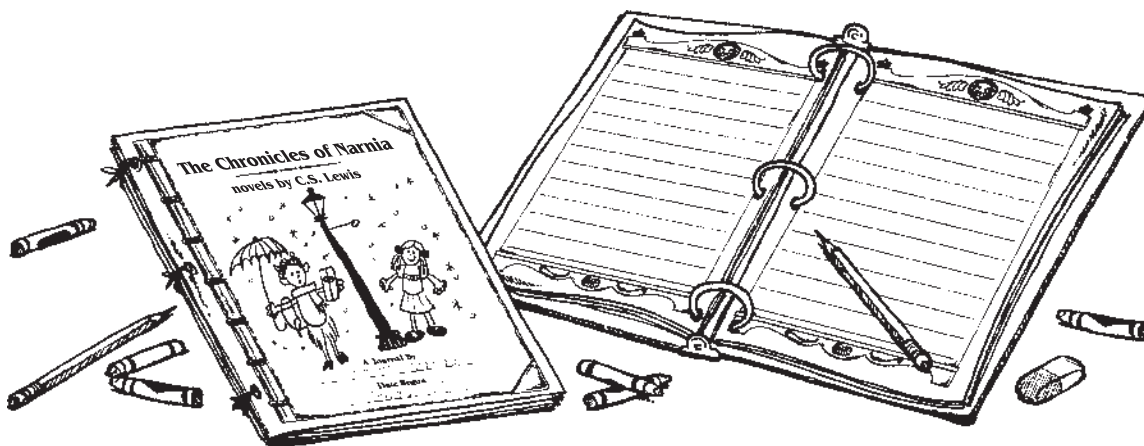
## Making a Journal

- ✦ Use a three-ring binder or three-pronged pocket folder and fill it with 50–100 pages of lined notebook paper. Or simply fasten the pages together with yarn, ribbon, rubber bands, or brads.
- ✦ Photocopy the journal title page (page 8) for each student. Have them fill in and illustrate the cover. (You could do the same with a blank sheet of paper.)
- ✦ A reproducible paper frame (page 9) is provided for journal entries. Depending on the size of the class and the number of journal entries you anticipate, you may want to provide just a few copies of this page, reserving it for special entries or assignments. You could also use the page for individual essays you wish to display in a student's portfolio or on a classroom bulletin board.

- ✦ If your students have access to the technology, you may allow them to create their journals on a computer—in a word processing file or on a class Web site. In place of original drawings, they can incorporate stationery, artistic fonts, and clip art.

## Using a Journal

- ✦ Suggest that students take notes as they read the novel—questions they may have or ideas that come to them.
- ✦ Have students answer the vocabulary and comprehension questions in their journals.
- ✦ Assign topics from the story, such as: “Father Christmas gave the children some rather unique gifts. What is the most unusual gift you have ever received?” or “If you could grow up to become a king or queen of Narnia, what would you like to be known for?”
- ✦ Remind students that they are welcome to include personal opinions and observations—how they feel about certain characters, whether or not they like how the story unfolds, or what they would do differently.





# **The Chronicles of Narnia**

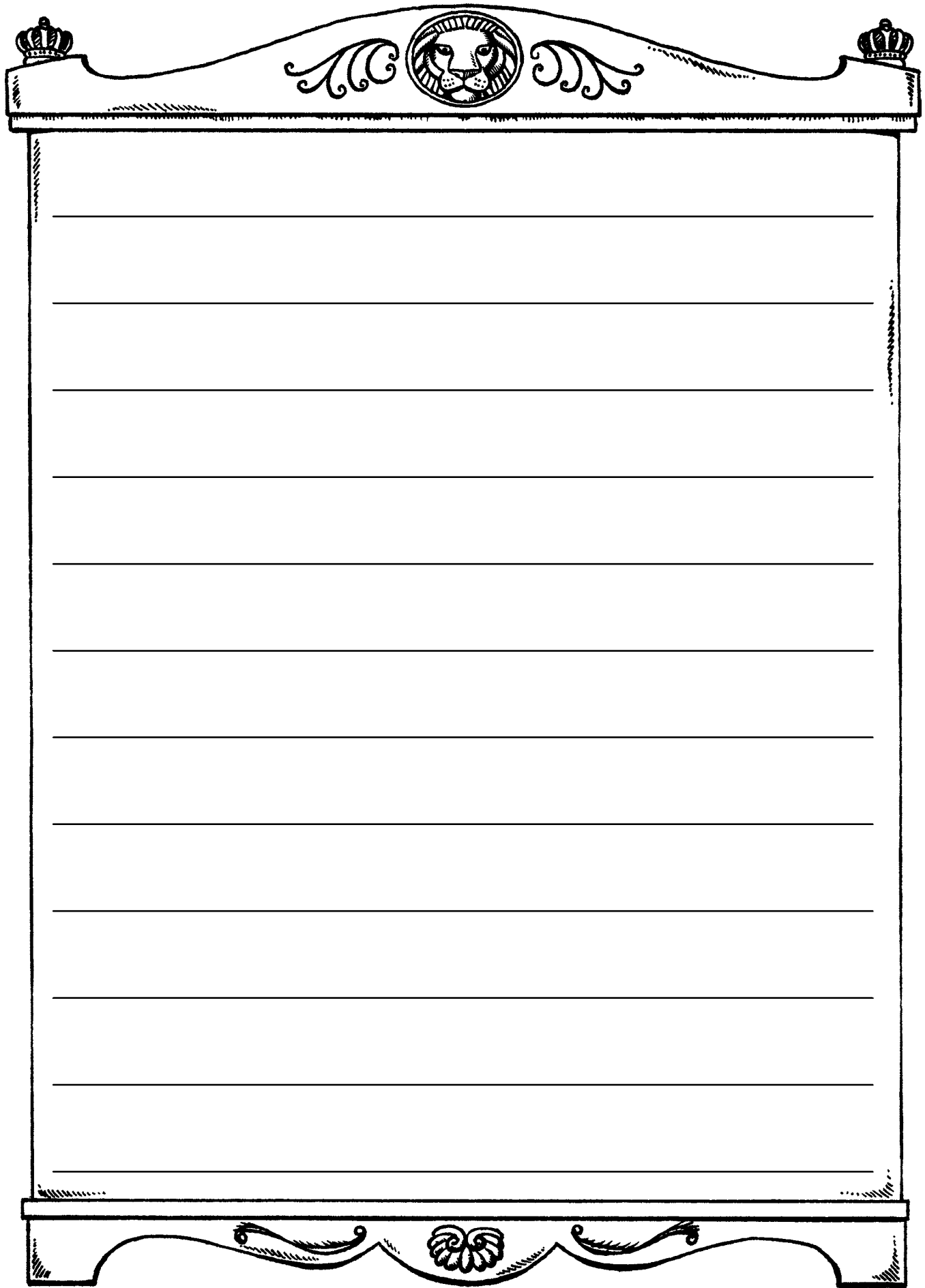
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**novels by C. S. Lewis**

**A Journal By**

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**Date Begun**

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# Answer Key



## Page 11

1. i   2. d   3. f   4. a   5. h  
6. e   7. b   8. j   9. c   10. g

1. Polly and Digory are next-door neighbors who live in London.
2. He's unhappy being in the city; living with his creepy uncle and aunt; he misses his father; his mother is dying.
3. They explore the attics and rafters of their homes.
4. They accidentally walk into Uncle Andrew's secret study.
5. She suddenly disappears.

## Page 12

Answers will vary.

## Page 13

1. b   2. l   3. a   4. e   5. g   6. k   7. d  
8. h   9. c   10. i   11. j   12. m   13. f

1. As part of an experiment, he has sent her to another world.
2. Uncle Andrew made them from a mysterious powder given to him by his godmother, Mrs. Lefay.
3. He's proud, arrogant, selfish, cruel. We learn this from the things he says and the way that he treats animals and people.
4. He is disgusted and angry with his uncle.
5. Digory must use one of the rings himself to go after her.

## Page 14

1. d   2. c   3. a   4. e   5. b

1. He finds himself and Polly in a strange world.
2. It's quiet and sleepy, full of trees and pools of water that all look the same.
3. They decide to use them to explore other worlds.
4. She insists they make sure they can use the rings to get back home, and that they somehow mark the pool that leads to their own world.
5. The eyes are the "lamp of the body"—revealing what is inside.

6. They are condemned to burn in the Lake of Fire forever.

## Page 16

1. b   2. i   3. f   4. g   5. d   6. c   7. h  
8. e   9. a

1. It's an old world. It sits empty, silent—in ruin, and decay.
2. They see hundreds of statues, richly dressed; some with cruel faces, some kind.
3. A golden bell and hammer sit on the table—accompanied by a mysterious inscription.
4. He wants to hit the bell with the hammer; she wants to go home. Digory wins.
5. It rings so loudly that it shakes the ground and brings down the ceiling.

## Page 17

1. i   2. j   3. a   4. f   5. h   6. k   7. b  
8. c   9. d   10. e   11. g

1. Jadis, the Queen of Charn, was awakened when the bell was struck, breaking the spell.
2. It was destroyed in a bloody war between Jadis and her sister.
3. Jadis used the "deplorable word"—a word with the power to "destroy all living things except the one who speaks it."
4. She wants to be taken to our world so that she can rule it.
5. She reminds Digory of Uncle Andrew.

## Page 18

1. h   2. i   3. d   4. c   5. g   6. f   7. a  
8. b   9. e

1. She grabs Digory by the ear as he jumps into the pool.
2. He is a "little, peddling magician." He is not royalty. He has no real Magic in his blood or heart. Everything he knows is from books.
3. She wants a chariot, clothes, jewels, and servants as she prepares to conquer our world.
4. Polly accepts Digory's apology; she shares his concern for his mother.
5. In his pride and conceit, he imagines the witch will fall in love with him.