

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

by C.S. Lewis

A Reading Guide

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Reading Questions

The following reading questions will help you notice important aspects of your reading. The application questions will help you connect your reading to your own life.

Chapters 1-4

Chapter 1 - The Picture in the Bedroom

1. Describe Eustace Clarence Scrubb. Why are Edmund and Lucy visiting him?
2. Describe the Dawn Treader. How do the three children get aboard this ship?
3. What color is King Caspian's hair? What color is the image of Aslan in Caspian's cabin? What other animals decorate Caspian's cabin?

Chapter 2 - On Board the Dawn Treader

4. What are the two purposes for the voyage of the *Dawn Treader*? Who built this ship?
5. Why does Eustace keep a diary? What does this reveal about Eustace?
6. Why does Reepicheep beat Eustace with his sword? How does the rapier feel to Eustace?

Chapter 3 - The Lone Islands

7. What unwise suggestion does Caspian make when they reach the Lone Islands?

8. What does Pug do for a living? Describe Pug's ship.

9. Who buys Caspian? What plan does he make with Caspian?

Chapter 4 - What Caspian Did There

10. How does the armor and manner of Caspian's men differ from the islanders'?

11. What happens to Gumpas? What happens to Pug?

12. What does Lord Bern ask Caspian to do at the end of this chapter? Why does Caspian refuse?

Chapters 5-8

Chapter 5 - The Storm and What Came of It

13. What does Lucy notice about the sea each morning? Why does Reepicheep lose at chess?

14. According to Eustace's diary, what does he think of his own character? How does his diary reveal the truth?

15. Describe the sky and the weather when Eustace slips away on the island. Why are these details important?

Chapter 6 - The Adventures of Eustace

16. What creature does Eustace find in the tiny valley? What happens to this creature?

17. What is important about the fact that the "sun beat down" and Eustace finds the heat "unbearable"? What happens to Eustace when he hides from the sun and rain in the dragon's cave?

18. Why does Eustace turn into a dragon? What does this cause him to realize about himself?

Chapter 7 - How the Adventure Ended

19. How does being a dragon change Eustace's character? What keeps Eustace from despair? Who is his greatest comforter?

20. What does Eustace notice about Aslan's appearance? How does Eustace feel about Aslan at first?

21. Why must Aslan "undress" Eustace? What does Aslan do to him after he is undressed?

22. How does this adventure change Eustace?

Chapter 8 - Two Narrow Escapes

23. What is the first of the narrow escapes in this chapter? What damage is done to the ship?

24. What is odd about the water on Deathwater Island?

25. Why do Caspian and Edmund almost fight? What prevents their fighting?

Chapters 9-12

Chapter 9 - The Island of the Voices

26. What is odd about the "island of voices" when the company first arrives?

27. How did this island's inhabitants become invisible (according to them)? What do they compel Lucy to do for them?

28. Why is this task potentially very dangerous? Why does Reepicheep think Lucy should do it?

Chapter 10 - The Magician's Book

29. What is the first spell Lucy almost reads aloud? Why does Aslan's face appear in the book before she can say this spell?

30. What spell does Lucy say? What is the consequence?

31. What is the third spell Lucy reads? What story does this spell tell? Why does Aslan say he will tell it to Lucy "for years and years" (160)?

Chapter 11 - The Dufflepuds Made Happy

32. Who is Coriakin? What does he think of the Dufflepuds?

33. Describe the intelligence of the Dufflepuds. Why must Coriakin rule over them with "rough magic"?

34. Regarding how Dufflepuds became invisible, how does Coriakin's version of the story differ from the Dufflepuds?

35. How do the Dufflepuds get their name?

Chapter 12 - The Dark Island

36. What argument does Reepicheep have with Drinian about going into the darkness? What does this reveal about Reepicheep?

37. What does Lucy notice about how the darkness feels and how the lights look? Why is this the case?

38. Whom do they unexpectedly meet in the darkness? What terrifying truth does he tell them about the island they are near?

39. How is the *Dawn Treader* delivered from the darkness? Why does this deliverance come (what happens just before its arrival)?

Chapters 13-16

Chapter 13 - The Three Sleepers

40. Who are the three sleepers? Why does the company not eat the feast the first night?

41. What assurance does the girl give Edmund that she is a friend and the feast won't harm them?
Who is the first to eat?

42. Whose table is it? What knife is on the table? How long will this table last?

Chapter 14 - The Beginning of the End of the World

43. What does Edmund say is the most exciting part of his entire journey? Why is this the most exciting event?

44. What happens to the feast every morning? How can Caspian undo the enchanted sleep?

45. Who is Ramandu? What does Ramandu eat every morning? Why?

46. How does Caspian convince all of his men to want to go to the World's End?

Chapter 15 - The Wonders of the Last Sea

47. What odd things do the company notice about their sleep and speech as they begin sailing to the World's End?

48. What does Reepicheep discover about the water when he jumps overboard to fight the sea people? How does he describe the water? How does the water affect the company's sight?

Chapter 16 - The Very End of the World

49. What covers the surface of the Silver Sea? How does the smell affect the company?

50. How does Aslan appear the sixth time? Why does he appear to Caspian?

51. What do the children and Reepicheep see beyond the sun? How does Lucy describe the smell and sound that come from that country?

52. What animal gives the children breakfast? Why does Aslan appear in this form?

53. Why can Edmund and Lucy never return to Narnia? How will they see Aslan again?

Application for *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*

Reread the Sol section of Lewis's poem "The Planets". Then answer these questions.

1. How does Lewis use this description of Sol to create the atmosphere of *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*?
2. What does Lewis teach us about Christ in this novel? How does he use the symbolism, attributes, and influences of Sol to teach these things?
3. What are the two most important things you learned from reading this book? What must you do or think differently, now that you've read it?