



SCHOLÉ ACADEMY
CLASSICAL ACADEMIC PRESS

C.S. Lewis Summer Book Club 2023

“What you see and what you hear depends a great deal on where you are standing. It also depends on what sort of person you are.”
— C.S. Lewis, *The Magician's Nephew*

Description:

This summer, I welcome 5th to 9th graders to join us for one or both sessions of C.S. Lewis book reading from *The Chronicles of Narnia* series. Session A will read *The Magician's Nephew* and Session B will read *The Last Battle*. These books will change students' lives and, in the meantime, teach them how to read with delight, depth, and skill, as well as prepare them to write well. There are no required assignments. All that is asked is that you come and participate with delight and joy in reading and discussion in community. These books are written with many Christian themes. We will discuss how the book relates to God's Word and our own lives. It is my hope that the books will encourage students to grow in their faith and relationship with God as a result of the book and our study together. This year, the sessions will be 1 hour and 15 minutes to allow for further background information, summaries, vocabulary, discussion and analysis of the book.

Summer Book Club Sessions: (July 11th to August 3rd)
Sessions 1 hour and 15 minutes in length

Book Club A: *The Magician's Nephew* (Tuesdays/Thursdays 10:30 am EST)

Book Club B: *The Last Battle* (Tuesday/Thursdays 12:30 pm EST)

Sessions meet on: July 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 & August 1, 3

The goal of these sessions is to help students develop the following habits:

- Taking notes in their books (annotation)
- Retelling the story orally
- Summarizing
- Creating their own questions
- Keeping notes book-wide on the great ideas that animate the book
- Engaging with questions that stimulate discussion about thematic material
- Answering different types of questions, such as reading questions, which develop close-reading skills
- Answering life questions that apply to the material
- Memorizing important quotations (optional)
- Writing a strong essay at the book's end, like a persuasive or comparison essay (optional)
- Identifying figurative language and literary devices
- Seeing connections in literature to the Bible and their personal relationship with God
- Reading a book to learn moral lessons and develop virtues
- Sharing thoughts and insights
- Building vocabulary

Student Expectations: Summer reading aims to cultivate a communal love and exploration of story, reading, and journaling. Class time will sometimes be spent reading aloud as a group, as well as sharing each student's reflections and musings from their reading journal.

Prerequisites: 5th to 9th graders who have an interest in reading in community for the summer (parents welcome)



Instructor's name: Peter Belfry

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Students will be encouraged to keep a three-ring binder/reading journal with the following tabs:

- Vocabulary, Questions, Musings (contemplative journaling)

The Magician's Nephew Reading Map:

The outline below represents a rough sketch for how our readings will proceed. Instructor may adjust pacing to suit the needs of the class. This will also include discussion, comprehension checks, analysis, reflection, etc.

WEEK 1

Day 1: Chapters 1-2, Day 2: Chapters 3-4

WEEK 2

Day 1: Chapters 5-6, Day 2: Chapters 7-8

WEEK 3

Day 1: Chapters 9-10, Day 2: Chapters 11-12

WEEK 4

Day 1: Chapters 13-14, Day 2: Chapter 15 and analysis of major book themes

The Last Battle Reading Map:

The outline below represents a rough sketch for how our readings will proceed. Instructor may adjust pacing to suit the needs of the class. This will also include discussion, comprehension checks, analysis, reflection, etc.

WEEK 1

Day 1: Chapters 1-2, Day 2: Chapters 3-4

WEEK 2

Day 1: Chapters 5-6, Day 2: Chapters 7-8

WEEK 3

Day 1: Chapters 9-10, Day 2: Chapters 11-12

WEEK 4

Day 1: Chapters 13-14, Day 2: Chapters 15-16 and analysis of major book themes

Book Summaries from Progeny Press:

The Magician's Nephew:

When Polly Plummer meets Digory Kirke, he is very unhappy. His father is away in India, and he and his mother, who is very ill, have moved to London to live with an aunt and uncle. Digory is convinced that his Uncle Andrew is either mad, or has a very important secret. Though he's been warned to stay away from Uncle Andrew's study, he's heard strange noises coming from the room late at night.

Digory and Polly become friends, and because of the cold, wet summer days, they are forced to play indoors. While exploring a tunnel that connects their houses, the children accidentally find themselves in Uncle Andrew's study, and Uncle Andrew seems far too delighted to see the children. Uncle Andrew's experiment will send the children to strange other worlds, but an encounter with the sinister Queen Jadis brings evil to the land of Narnia on the day of its creation. Digory, meanwhile, may have a chance to heal his mother, but will he pass the test?

The Last Battle:

The final book of the Chronicles of Narnia. When Shift, a lazy, devious ape, finds a lion skin, he tricks Puzzle, a goodhearted but simple donkey, into wearing it. Soon, Narnia is full of stories of the return of Aslan, lion lord of Narnia, but an Aslan who seems harsh and almost cruel. When King Tirian goes to investigate, he finds cruel Calormenes enslaving his subjects in the name of Aslan. With his few remaining loyal subjects and two children from Narnia's distant past, Tirian faces Narnia's final battle and the end of his treasured land. As Narnia dissolves in shooting stars and darkness and ice swallows it, the faithful are guided through a door with Aslan into a world of beauty. Their hearts leap and a wild hope ignites in them as they run further up and further into the glories and wonder of Aslan's country. As Aslan tells them, "The dream is ended: this is the morning."

The Virtual Classroom:

Scholé Academy uses free online "virtual classroom" software provided by Zoom, one of the leading companies that provides such software. The virtual classroom will provide students with interactive audio and an interactive whiteboard in which texts, diagrams, video, and other media can be displayed and analyzed. **Once enrolled, student will be emailed a link that will enable them to join the virtual classroom.**

Specific information regarding the technology used by Scholé Academy (including required technology) can be found by visiting www.ClassicalAcademicPress.com.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR:

Peter Belfry has a range of teaching and tutoring experience in a variety of subjects and age levels from kindergarten through to adult education at the college level and has taught at several classical, Christian and public schools. Peter has read and studied The Chronicles of Narnia series with past students in his classes as well as previous summer reading clubs. He has deeply enjoyed the meaningful discussion and reflection it can bring. He also has experience teaching computer programming from a Christian perspective to middle and high school students as well as designing a digital coding textbook. Peter holds an Honors BA from Trent University in History as well as a BA in Education, specializing in History and Computer Science. He holds an MA from Knox Theological Seminary in Classical and Christian studies, which provides him a background for teaching from a classical perspective. For his MA program, he read many of the Great Books as well as studied Scripture and church history. Peter has completed a week-long teacher training with the Association of Classical Christian Schools and Rockbridge Academy. His favorite piece of classical literature is Dante's *The Divine Comedy*.

In addition to teaching, Peter also has experience serving in a pastoral role and enjoys volunteering to serve in his local church and community. He helps in evangelistic outreach as well as teaching lessons from the Bible. Peter has experience and training as an English as a Second Language instructor as well. He has experience teaching both online and in person. He believes in Scholé's approach in seeking "restful learning" and believes that education should be life-giving and freeing for the soul as it should acknowledge the Lord Jesus as the source of all that is true, good and beautiful. Peter lives in the North Bay, Ontario area with his wife and twin boys.

