

# Prince Caspian



By

C.S. Lewis

A Novel Study  
by Nat Reed

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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 at Trent University in the Teacher Education Program for nine years. For more information on his work and literature, visit [novelstudies.org](http://novelstudies.org).

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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 one or two chapters of *Prince Caspian* and is comprised of these activities:

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

A **portfolio cover** (p.7) as well as a **Checklist** (p.6) are included so that students may track of their completed work.

**Every activity need not be completed by all students.**

#### 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.**

**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/homophones
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 Pevensie siblings travel back to Narnia to help a prince denied his rightful throne as he gathers an army in a desperate attempt to rid his land of a false king. But in the end, it is a battle of honor between two men alone that will decide the fate of an entire world.

*Prince Caspian* is the fourth book in C. S. Lewis's classic fantasy series, which has been captivating readers of all ages with magical lands where animals talk and trees walk for over sixty years. This is a stand-alone novel, but if you would like to journey back to Narnia, read *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, the fifth book in *The Chronicles of Narnia*. [Summary 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.





# Prince Caspian



*By C.S. Lewis*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Prince Caspian

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## Chapters 1-2



### Before you read these chapters:

The **protagonist** in most novels features the main character or “good guy.” The protagonist of *Prince Caspian* actually has five protagonists, Prince Caspian, as well as Peter, Susan, Lucy and Edmund Pevensie, who once again are drawn unexpectedly back into the land of Narnia for more exciting adventures. Do you think it will be a good thing having more than one protagonist or not? Please defend your answer.




### Vocabulary:

Choose a word from the list to complete each sentence.

anemones	promontory	rhododendrons	inhabited
terrace	dais	reproachful	laden

1. As the children rounded each \_\_\_\_\_ they expected to find an end to the path.
2. Jason gave his brother a \_\_\_\_\_ look and then took the matches from him.
3. We were all \_\_\_\_\_ down with many large gifts.
4. Shells, seaweed and \_\_\_\_\_, or tiny crabs in rock pools, were everywhere.
5. The mayor mounted the \_\_\_\_\_ and gazed out over the crowded auditorium.
6. We never suspected for a moment that the island was \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The prince led his bride out onto the \_\_\_\_\_ where they had a wonderful view of the garden.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ are the most beautiful plant in our garden.



# Questions



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


2. When the children felt something pulling on them, why do you suppose they suspected that it was magic at work?


3. When the children were transported to Narnia, what immediate needs did they have to address?


4. What was their first clue that the island had once been inhabited by people?


5. The name of their castle in Narnia was \_\_\_\_\_.

6. What are three adjectives that would aptly describe the personalities/appearance of the four Pevensie children.

Peter			
Susan			
Edmund			
Lucy			

7. What did Susan find when she went to get water from the well? Why was this item significant to them?


8. Why was it so hard for Edmund to believe that they were actually in Cair Paravel?


9. Summarize the four points made by Peter which convinced the others that they were in the ruins of Cair Paravel.

1	
2	
3	
4	

10. When they entered the treasure chamber it mentions that Peter brought up the rear. Was this unusual, considering he was the oldest and strongest of the four? Why or why not?


11. What three items were retrieved from the treasure chamber?

Lucy	
Susan	
Peter	

## Language Activity



**A.** A **simile** is a comparison using the words “like” or “as”. An example from Chapter Five is, ...*(that is, his hair and beard were black and thick and hard like horsehair.)* What two things are being compared in this example?

--	--

Invent your own **similes** comparing the following items with something from your own imagination:

a) an exciting sword fight


b) a beautiful sunset in the desert


c) your own example


## B. Antonyms, Synonyms or Homophones

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

a) fresh - stagnant		f) interrupt - impede	
b) portions - shares		g) knot - not	
c) stoop - slouch		h) scorched - seared	
d) fir - fur		i) wears - wares	
e) ordinary - abnormal		j) blunder - correctness	

## 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 *Prince Caspian*.

Word	Anagram	Clue
minute		A slow, stately ballroom dance.
same		An isolated flat-topped hill.
first		Cracks; splits.
sharp		Stringed musical instruments.
faces		Small restaurants.
point		Speckled (as in a horse).
coast		A man's broad, silk necktie.
stream		Overlord; ruler.

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

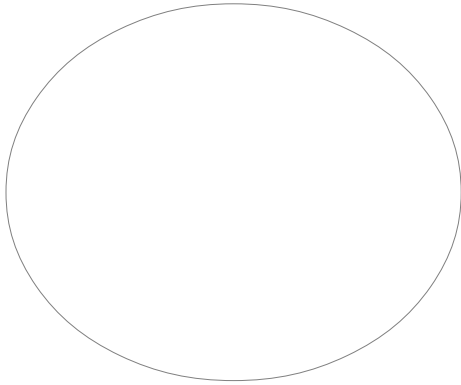
Word	Anagram	Clue

**Check out the official website of C.S. Lewis**

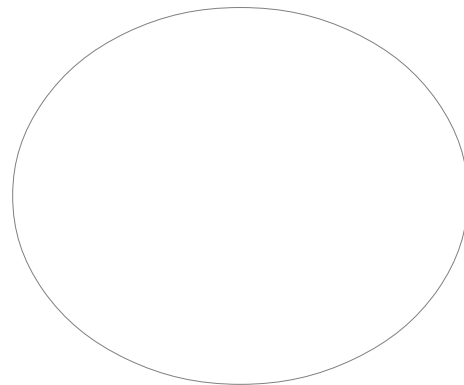
<http://www.cslewis.com/us/>

## D. 5 Ws and an H.

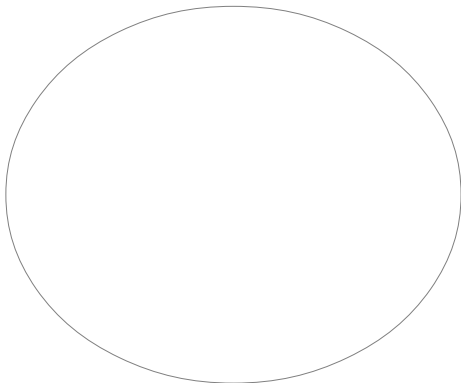
Choose an event from this section that you thought was really important and/or exciting. Using facts that you gleaned from reading about this event, fill in the balloons below, summarizing what you learned.



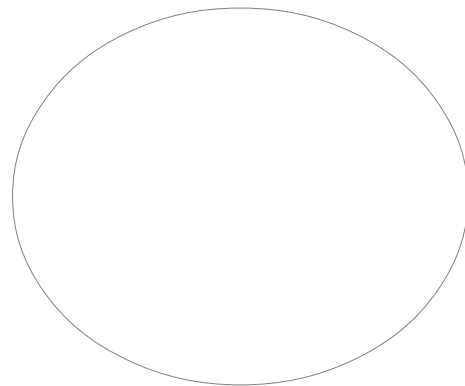
***WHO?***



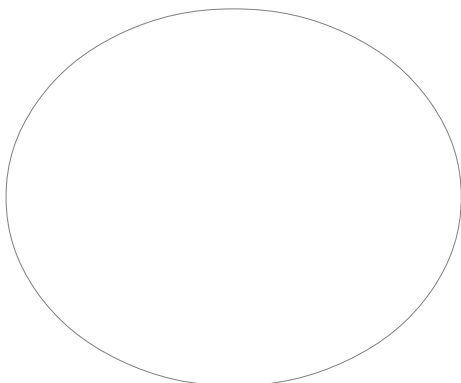
***WHAT?***



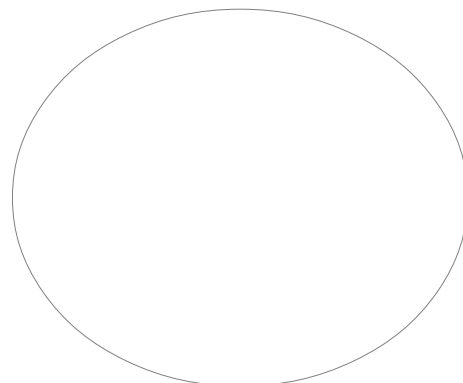
***WHEN?***



***WHERE?***



***WHY?***



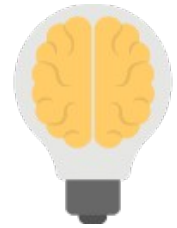
***HOW?***

## E. An Acrostic Poem

There are many forms of poetry available to the aspiring poet other than the rhyming poem. An ACROSTIC poem is one example. In an acrostic poem the first letters of each line are aligned vertically to form a word. The word often is the subject of the poem. Here is an example written by the acclaimed poet, Atrocious Halitosis:

### The Firefly

Freaky-looking  
Itches me when I touch  
Restless at night  
Early or late  
Fearless  
Little  
Yellowfly



### The Acrostic Poem

Now create your own Acrostic Poem on a subject featured in this novel. Your poem must have at least four lines (and doesn't need to rhyme).

**Title:** .....


## Extension Activity



### A Comic Strip \_\_\_\_\_

This activity is especially for students with an artistic flair or who love comic books! It can be done for any event up to this point in the story. The first step is to decide on the length of your comic strip (6 to 9 frames is suggested); next consider what events you will include. You may wish to highlight a brief incident (i.e. Susan finds the chessman), or include the highlights of the novel to this point. A quick sketch of the comic strip can first be accomplished in a **storyboard format** before a final, good copy is attempted. The strip should include a title, dialogue, and color. It should be neat and imaginative.
