

'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis

An extract from Chapter 3 – 'Edmund and the Wardrobe'

Lucy ran out of the empty room into the passage and found the other three.

"It's all right," she repeated, "I've come back."

"What on earth are you talking about, Lucy?" asked Susan.

"Why?" said Lucy in amazement, "haven't you all been wondering where I was?"

"So you've been hiding, have you?" said Peter. "Poor old Lu, hiding and nobody noticed!

You'll have to hide longer than that if you want people to start looking for you."

"But I've been away for hours and hours," said Lucy.

The others all stared at one another.

"Batty!" said Edmund, tapping his head. "Quite batty."

"What do you mean, Lu?" asked Peter.

"What I said," answered Lucy. "It was just after breakfast when I went into the wardrobe, and I've been away for hours and hours, and had tea, and all sorts of things have happened."

"Don't be silly, Lucy," said Susan. "We've only just come out of that room a moment ago, and you were there then."

"She's not being silly at all," said Peter, "she's just making up a story for fun, aren't you, Lu? And why shouldn't she?"

"No, Peter, I'm not," she said. "It's - it's a magic wardrobe. There's a wood inside it, and it's snowing, and there's a Faun and a Witch and it's called Narnia; come and see."

The others did not know what to think, but Lucy was so excited that they all went back with her into the room. She rushed ahead of them, flung open the door of the wardrobe and cried, "Now! go in and see for yourselves."

"Why, you goose," said Susan, putting her head inside and pulling the fur coats apart, "it's just an ordinary wardrobe; look! there's the back of it."

Then everyone looked in and pulled the coats apart; and they all saw - Lucy herself saw - a perfectly ordinary wardrobe. There was no wood and no snow, only the back of the wardrobe, with hooks on it.

Peter went in and rapped his knuckles on it to make sure that it was solid.

"A jolly good hoax, Lu," he said as he came out again; "you have really taken us in, I must admit. We half believed you."

"But it wasn't a hoax at all," said Lucy, "really and truly. It was all different a moment ago. Honestly it was. I promise."

"Come, Lu," said Peter, "that's going a bit far. You've had your joke. Hadn't you better drop it now?"

Lucy grew very red in the face and tried to say something, though she hardly knew what she was trying to say, and burst into tears.

For the next few days she was very miserable. She could have made it up with the others quite easily at any moment if she could have brought herself to say that the whole thing was only a story made up for fun. But Lucy was a very truthful girl and she knew that she was really in the right; and she could not bring herself to say this.

Questions

1. At the start of the chapter, where does Lucy think she has returned from? (1 mark)

2. Why is Lucy amazed when she first finds her brothers and sister? (2 marks)

3. 'The others all stared at one another.' How are the children feeling at this point in the text? Why? (2 marks)

4. What does Edmund mean by the term 'batty'? Circle one. (1 mark)

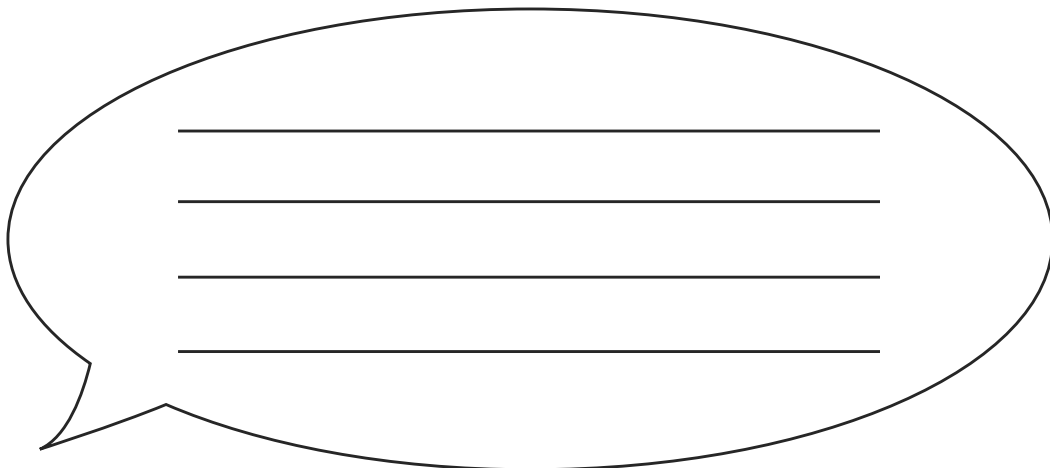
☐ funny

☐ forgetful

☐ sad

☐ crazy

5. Complete the thought bubble to show how Lucy felt when Susan said to her 'Don't be silly, Lucy.' Use evidence from the text to justify your answers. (2 marks)



Questions

6. Tick to show whether the statements are true or false. (4 marks)

	True	False
Peter thinks Lucy is making up a story for fun.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lucy says that there's a wood inside the wardrobe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The children believed Lucy's story.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lucy is worried about showing the children the wardrobe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. What insult does Susan call Lucy? (1 mark)

8. How might Lucy have felt when the other children revealed that it was just an ordinary wardrobe? Why? (3 marks)

9. What word in the text means 'joke' or 'trick'? (1 mark)

Questions

10. What does it mean by the phrase 'grew very red in the face' in the context of this story? Tick one. (1 mark)

- to feel excited or amazed ☐
- to feel embarrassed or ashamed ☐
- to feel hot and uncomfortable ☐
- to feel sad and upset ☐

11. How does the reader know that Lucy feels upset about her siblings' reactions? (1 mark)

12. Why does Lucy not admit that she is wrong? (1 mark)



Answers

1. At the start of the chapter, where does Lucy think she has returned from? (1 mark)

A magical land located in the back of the wardrobe called Narnia.

2. Why is Lucy amazed when she first finds her brothers and sister? (2 marks)

She is amazed that her siblings are not more worried about her and where she has been for so long. Lucy believes she has been missing for many hours and so presumes that her brothers and sister have wondered where she was.

3. 'The others all stared at one another.' How are the children feeling at this point in the text? Why? (2 marks)

They are confused because Lucy is telling them she has been gone for hours and yet they didn't even realise she was hiding and so believe Lucy can't have been gone for as long as she says she has.

4. What does Edmund mean by the term 'batty'? Circle one. (1 mark)

☐

funny

☐

forgetful

☐

sad

☒

crazy

5. Complete the thought bubble to show how Lucy felt when Susan said to her 'Don't be silly, Lucy.' Use evidence from the text to justify your answers. (2 marks)

'How dare Susan call me silly! I know where I was. I've been up to all sorts of things, meeting people and having tea. I couldn't have done all that in less than a few hours. Why won't she believe me?'



Answers

6. Tick to show whether the statements are true or false. (4 marks)

	True	False
Peter thinks Lucy is making up a story for fun.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lucy says that there's a wood inside the wardrobe.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The children believed Lucy's story.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lucy is worried about showing the children the wardrobe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

7. What insult does Susan call Lucy? (1 mark)

a goose

8. How might Lucy have felt when the other children revealed that it was just an ordinary wardrobe? Why? (3 marks)

She might have felt confused as she was certain that she had visited Narnia and reached the magical land through the back of the wardrobe. She can vividly recall things she has done in Narnia e.g. having tea and yet now there is 'no wood and no snow, only the back of the wardrobe'. She might be questioning whether she did go through there or she had made it up or cross that the wardrobe is now not magical as it will mean her siblings won't believe her and it will look like she has lied to them.

9. What word in the text means 'joke' or 'trick'? (1 mark)

hoax

Answers

10. What does it mean by the phrase 'grew very red in the face' in the context of this story? Tick one. (1 mark)

to feel excited or amazed

☐

to feel embarrassed or ashamed

☒

to feel hot and uncomfortable

☐

to feel sad and upset

☐

11. How does the reader know that Lucy feels upset about her siblings' reactions? (1 mark)

She 'burst into tears'.

12. Why does Lucy not admit that she is wrong? (1 mark)

Lucy does not admit that she is wrong because she is a 'very truthful girl' and she 'knew she was right'.

