

2. The Silver Chair Discussion Group

WK	Days	Reading Assignment	Chapter Titles
Wk 2	March 12	Chs 3, 4, 5	3. The Sailing of the King 4. The Parliament of Owls 5. Puddleglum
Wk 3	March 19	Chs 6, 7, 8	6. The Wild Waste Lands of the North 7. The Hill of the Strange Trenches 8. The House of Harfang
Wk 4	March 26	Chs 9, 10, 11	9. How They Discovered Something Worth Knowing 10. Travels without the Sun 11. In the Dark Castle
Wk 5	April 2	Chs 12, 13	12. The Queen of Underland 13. Underland without the Queen
Wk 6	April 9	Chs 14, 15, 16	14. The Bottom of the World 15. The Disappearance of Jill 16. The Healing of Harms

“There then comes to you a person, saying, “Here is a new bit of the manuscript that I found; it is the central passage of that symphony, or the central chapter of that novel. The text is incomplete without it. I have got the missing passage which is really the centre of the whole work.” The only thing you could do would be to put this new piece of the manuscript in that central position, and then see how it reacted on the whole of the rest of the work. If it constantly brought out new meanings for the whole of the rest of the work, if it made you notice things in the rest of the work which you had not noticed before, then I think you would decide that it was authentic.”

C.S. Lewis, ‘The Grand Miracle’

Lady LUNA, in light canoe,
By friths and shallows of fretted cloudland
Cruises monthly; with chrism of dews
And drench of dream, a drizzling glamour,
Enchants us—the cheat! changing sometime
A mind to madness, melancholy pale,
Bleached with gazing on her blank count'nance
Orb'd and ageless. In earth's bosom
The shower of her rays, sharp-feathered light
Reaching downward, ripens silver,
Forming and fashioning female brightness,
—Metal maidenlike. Her moist circle
Is nearest earth.

excerpt from the poem, “The Planets” by C.S. Lewis

“At *Luna* we cross in our descent the great frontier which I have so often had to mention; from aether to air, from ‘heaven’ to ‘nature’, from the realm of the gods (or angels) to that of daemons, from the realm of necessity to that of contingency, from the incorruptible to the corruptible. Unless this ‘great divide’ is firmly fixed in our minds, every passage from Donne or Drayton or whom you will that mentions ‘translunary’ and ‘sublunary’ will lose its intended force.... Her metal is silver. In men she produces wandering, and that in two senses. she may make them travelers so that, as Gower says, the man born under Luna will ‘*seche manye londes strange*’ (VII, 747). In this respect the English and the Germans are much under her influence. But she may also produce ‘wandering’ of the wits, especially that periodical insanity which was first meant by the word *lunacy*, in which the patient, as Langland says (C X 107), is ‘*mad as the mone sit, more other lasse*’.... Dante assigns the Moon’s sphere to those who have entered the coventual life and abandoned it for some good or pardonable reason.”

C.S. Lewis, The Discarded Image

Questions for Chapters 3, 4, and 5

In chapter 3, what is the setting like in Cair Paravel like?

Who is Trumpkin. What is he like?

What does Eustace's speech reveal about him?

What has happened to Rilian?

Who is the lady in green kirtle?

Who is Puddleglum? Describe him. What is he like?

How do the imaginations of Jill, Eustace, and Puddleglum appear through the things they say?

How does 'moonishness' show itself in these chapters?

What are the differences between Aslan's country and Narnia?

Where is Aslan?

Dante's Universe

