

3. The Horse and His Boy Discussion Group

Week	Date	Reading Assignment	Chapters Discussed
Wk 1	Sept 10	Chs 1, 2	1. How Shasta Set Out on His Travels 2. A Wayside Adventure
Wk 2	Sept 17	Chs 3, 4, 5	3. At the Gates of Tashbaan 4. Shasta Falls in with the Narnians 5. Prince Corin
Wk 3	Sept 24	Chs 6, 7, 8	6. Shasta Among the Tombs 7. Aravis in Tashbaan 8. In the House of the Tisroc
Wk 4	Oct 1	Chs 9, 10	9. Across the Desert 10. The Hermit of the Southern March
Wk 5	Oct 8	11, 12, 13	11. The Unwelcome Fellow Traveler 12. Shasta in Narnia 13. The Fight at Anvard
Wk 6	Oct 15	Chs 14, 15	14. How Bree Became a Wiser Horse 15. Rabadash the Ridiculous

...Next beyond her
 MERCURY marches; --madcap rover,
 Patron of pilfrers. Pert quicksilver
 His gaze begets, goblin mineral,
 Merry multitude of meeting selves
 Same but sundered. From the soul's darkness,
 With wreathed wand, words he marshals,
 Guides and gather them--gay bellweather
 Of flocking fancies. His flint has struck
 The spark of speech from spirit's tinder,
 Lord of language! He leads forever
 The spangle and splendour, sport that mingles
 Sound with sense, in subtle pattern,
 Words in wedlock, and wedding also
 Of thing with thought.

from C.S. Lewis' poem, "The Planets"

"It is difficult to see the unity in all these characteristics. 'Skilled eagerness' or 'bright alacrity' is the best I can do. But it is better just to take some real mercury in a saucer and play with it for a few minutes. *That* is what 'Mercurial' means."

C. S. Lewis, *The Discarded Image*

"We use a most unfortunate idiom when we say, of a lustful man prowling the streets, that he "wants a woman." Strictly speaking, a woman is just what he does not want."

C. S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

“I am not sure that anyone has succeeded in locating it. Some have pointed to his “style,” but it goes deeper than that. “Consistency”? Noticeable enough in spite of an occasional inconsistency here or there. His unswerving “sincerity” then? That comes much nearer, but still does not satisfy me. Many other writers are sincere—but they are not Lewis. No. There was something in the whole quality and structure of his thinking, something for which the best label I can find is “presence of mind.” If I were asked to expand on that, I could say only that somehow what he thought about everything was secretly present in what he said about anything.”

Owen Barfield, quoted in Alan Jacobs, *The Narnian*

Chapter Six: Shasta Among the Tombs

1. In what ways does Shasta move throughout the chapter? How does direction or perspective play out in the story?
2. Is Shasta alone among the tombs?
3. At the end of the chapter, what is Shasta planning? What has he obviously not done?

Chapter Four: Aravis in Tashbaan

1. How does speed influence the events of the chapters?
2. What is Aravis' friend, Lasaraleen like? How do she and Aravis differ?
3. What color is the palace throne room's door and why is this significant?

Chapter Five: In the House of the Tisroc

1. How does the shape of the storytelling mercurial?
2. What are the Calormen virtues? How do these differ from the classical or the Christian virtues?
3. How is the mercurial working out in Rabidash? How does he plan to join what has been sundered?
4. What is the difference between Calormen and Narnian poetry? How is this significant?
5. What does Rabidash have to say about women's character.