# **Intro to American & British Lit: Reading Responses**

Good writing has good ideas and good thinking. It is clear, precise, and concise. Make your answers reflect these qualities.

Do NOT summarize the story or include long quotes. I know the story well. Instead, react and respond to ideas in the story. Why are they important or interesting or worth thinking about? How do the ideas in the story connect to your life and experienceWhat questions do you have? (Not “what questions might impress the teacher?”

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| Chinese Name | 徐靖 | | Student ID # | | 2200012917 |
| Pinyin name | Jing Xu | | Section # | | 1 |
| English name (optional) |  | | Date | | 2024/7/22 |
| Reading Response to Book/Chapters | | About how long did this take to read? | | | 8h |
| The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe  Chapter 1-6 | | How difficult was it? (0-5)  (0 = easy …5 = impossible to understand) | | | 2 |
| How interesting was it? (0-5)  (0 = so boring … 5 = loved it) | | | 4 |
| New vocabulary/language | | | | | |
| **10+ Words I needed to look up** (with brief English definition) | | | | **10+ Words I guessed the meaning of** (with your guess) | |
| **creepy** : causing an unpleasant feeling of fear or unease  **mantelpiece** : A structure above a fireplace, often used for displaying decorative items.  **icing-sugar** : finely granulated sugar used for decorating cakes and pastries\*\*  **inquisitive** : eager to know or learn something  **nastiest** : most unpleasant or unkind  **Camphor** : A white crystalline substance with a strong, aromatic odor, used as a preservative and in moth repellents.  **Chatelaine** : A woman in charge of a large house or estate  **fraternizing** : associating or mingling as brothers or on a brotherly basis with one another  **harness :** The equipment and accessories used to control and guide a horse or other animal, typically for riding or pulling a vehicle.  **Wardrobe :** A cabinet or closet used for storing clothes.  **hoax :** a humorous or malicious deception.  **Pax :** Peace, often used in the context of making peace or ending a quarrel.  **sulky :** feeling or showing irritation or ill humor  **disposal :** the state or position of being able to use something or someone  **alarming :** causing a feeling of danger or fear  **cramped :** feeling confined or restricted in space or freedom of movement  **Blinking :** Temporarily unable to see clearly, especially due to strong light.  **Fraternizing :** Engaging in friendly social or business relations with someone, especially someone of a different group or nation.  **larder :** a room or closet where food is kept. | | | | **pitter-patter :** soft, quick footsteps  **Sardines :** small fish  **Dryads :** tree spirits  **wringing :** twisting tightly  **Cloven :** split into two  **Crunching :** make a loud sound  **Wretched :** unhappy  **accord :** happen naturally  **Champing :** chewing  **Wrappings :** coverings  **snigger :** mocking laugh  **Armor :** protective clothing  **alighted :** landed gently  **jeered :** laugh at  **gilded :** covered with gold  **enchanted :** magic  **nastiest :** most unpleasant  **filthy :** dirty | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
| 1. If I encountered the other world in the closet, how would I deal with it? I found that I could not explore and believe in the creatures in the other world like the children did. I would consider the safety hazards and risks brought by going deep into the unknown, and I would doubt everyone I met, whether it was Mr. Tumnus or The White Witch. My profit-seeking mentality would make me wait for an opportunity to use this other world to make a profit. Does this highlight the innocence and cuteness of children, even if it is not very rational? Is this something we can learn from? 2. I found some of the religious symbolism used in this book very interesting, such as "daughter of Eve", "lion", etc. Is this related to the Bible? (I didn't put this question in the next column because I think it might be worth discussing the tone and connotation of this novel, even if I don't quite understand the images)   I can't think of anything else worth discussing about this children's literature.[crying] | | | | | |
| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
| I don't have many questions about the plot of this novel because it is easy to understand.   1. Why would a professor live in the countryside? This is different from the professors I know who work in research institutes or universities. Is there any special historical background, or is the professor just a deliberate task for the plot? 2. I have always been curious about what role the sometimes positive and sometimes negative image of "witch" plays in British and American history and literature? This image has almost no counterpart in China, or it exists but is very different or rarely appears. I have read two of the novels you gave me that have witches in them. | | | | | |
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