# **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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| English name (optional) |  | | Date | | 2024/7/19 |
| Reading Response to Book/Chapters | | About how long did this take to read? | | | 12h |
| The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe  Chapter 7-17 | | 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) | | | 3 |
| New vocabulary/language | | | | | |
| **10+ Words I needed to look up** (with brief English definition) | | | | **10+ Words I guessed the meaning of** (with your guess) | |
| ﻿**Forfeit** : Something surrendered or subject to surrender as punishment for a crime, an offense, an error, or a breach of contract.  **renounced** : formally declared one's abandonment of (a claim, right, or possession).  **velveted** : covered with or resembling velvet, especially in being soft and smooth.  **Fusty** : Having a musty, stale odor; old-fashioned or out-of-date.  **foreboding** : a feeling that something bad is going to happen; ominous anticipation.  **decoy** : something used to lure or entice someone into a trap or undesirable situation  **rampant** : growing or spreading without restraint"  **squatted** : To sit with the knees bent and the buttocks resting on the heels or the ground  **nibbling** : eating something by taking very small bites  **scepters** : ornamental staffs or batons borne by rulers as an emblem of authority or sovereignty | | | | **quivering** : shaking or trembling slightly  **Sizzling** : making a hissing sound  **Thaw** : melting of snow  **Springy** : bouncy,  **Boulder** : large rock  **Triumph** : great success  **Muzzle** : restrain with a device  **Quarry** : hunted animal  **stratagem** : a plan, method  **decoy** : something used to trap someone | |
| Ideas from this reading that would be interesting to discuss | | | | | |
| 1. I am very interested in a writing technique in this book (in fact, this technique often appears in Chinese literary knowledge): the fusion of scene and emotion. Did the author deliberately use this technique a lot? I think the most vivid example is the change in Edmund's mentality when he followed the queen and the revival of nature with the arrival of spring. 2. Contrary to what most people might think, I found more innocence than growth in this book (perhaps because I approached it with a certain bias towards children's literature). The joyful atmosphere in some plot designs seems to be intentionally crafted by the author, as the children’s sense of adventure is essential for it to be a true children's story, driving the fantastical narrative forward. Although I was often captivated by the plot and moved by the characters, I realized this might not be the right story for me. In reality, whether friend or foe, no one acts based on prophecies. Great accomplishments are not achieved by so-called preordained "chosen ones," descendants of Adam and Eve. To me, an excellent fantasy world should be a battleground for the clear-sighted philosopher-king (as Plato described), rather than a playground for naive children. Therefore, if I were to take anything from this book, it would not be the so-called courage and love, but rather a sense of familiarity with the author's whimsical idea of a wardrobe. 3. I think this novel also has a theme of unity and the united front, the unity of brothers and sisters, the unity of the Lion King, which is very similar to some things in the Chinese revolution (in addition to unity, there are also plots such as liberating the stone man). | | | | | |
| Questions about the story (include language, culture, story) | | | | | |
| 1. When the children were chasing the white deer, they found the iron pillar and lantern that they had come to this world with. Why did they forget that this was the entrance they had come from (they felt familiar with it, as if they had seen it in a dream)? I don't quite understand this. 2. What role does magic play in this type of novel (although the magic in this novel feels a bit outrageous and abrupt to me), such as the part where Aslan is resurrected (Aslan knows a deeper level of magic than the White Witch), is it just to advance the plot and provide a background setting? 3. Aslan started a crazy game of chase with Lucy and Susan. They circled around the top of the mountain, and Aslan sometimes let them almost catch him, and sometimes jumped away. I don't understand the meaning of this paragraph. Shouldn't they get down the mountain as soon as possible? Is this to express some kind of joy of reunion? | | | | | |
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