

Tom Byrne

T. Chapman

English 404 - Adolescent Literature

February 1, 2014

### **A Wrinkle In Time - Madeleine L'Engle**

#### 1) Age Group

I would recommend this book for ages 10-14. The story is rife with deeper themes and meanings, and the science is explained reasonably simply, so that younger readers will “get” it, but older readers will be able to understand and enjoy the deeper ideas.

#### 2) What is the Theme of the Story?

L'Engle explores several themes, but the main ones revolve around acceptance, both of others and of ourselves. The theme of individuality is also present, as we see many characters who each has their own unique traits, but are compelling in their own ways.

#### 3) List 3 Books you could recommend to a child who likes this story and wants to read more.

Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wind In The Door* - the second book, following the same characters.

Madeleine L'Engle's *A Swiftly Tilting Planet* - third installments in the series, it brings the youngest brother Charles Wallace to the forefront.

*The Magician's Nephew*, By C.S. Lewis.

#### 4) Review

*A Wrinkle in Time* starts off with what sounds like a cliché: “It was a dark and stormy night.” (L'Engle 3). The text that follows is anything but. The story that L'Engle weaves is truly

magical. The story concerns members of the Murray family, with oldest daughter Meg, and young Charles Wallace taking the forefront. Meg and Charles Wallace struggle with being different and unpopular at school. Meg is intelligent, but takes short-cuts in her work, whilst Charles Wallace is a super genius who can occasionally read the minds of others. Their father is a scientist, and has been absent from home for an extended period, working on a secret government project. Their mother (also a scientist) struggles with raising the family whilst he is absent. On this dark and stormy night, we are introduced to the Murray's mysterious neighbor, Mrs Whatsit - who, with utmost casualness drops a bombshell concerning the supposedly secretive research that Mr Murray was working on. Shortly after, Meg, Charles Wallace and Meg's classmate Calvin depart with Mrs Whatsit, and her equally odd and mysterious friends, Mrs Who, and Mrs Which. The adventure will take them to the far reaches of the universe, and with luck, back home. The book is filled with lots of interesting characters, locations, and ideas - lots and lots of ideas to digest.

### **Works Cited**

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*. Dell Laurel-Leaf, 1978. Print.

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wind In The Door*. Dell Publishing, 1980. Print.

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle In Time*. Square Fish, 2007. Print.

Lewis, C.S. *The Magician's Nephew*. HarperCollins, 1994. Print.