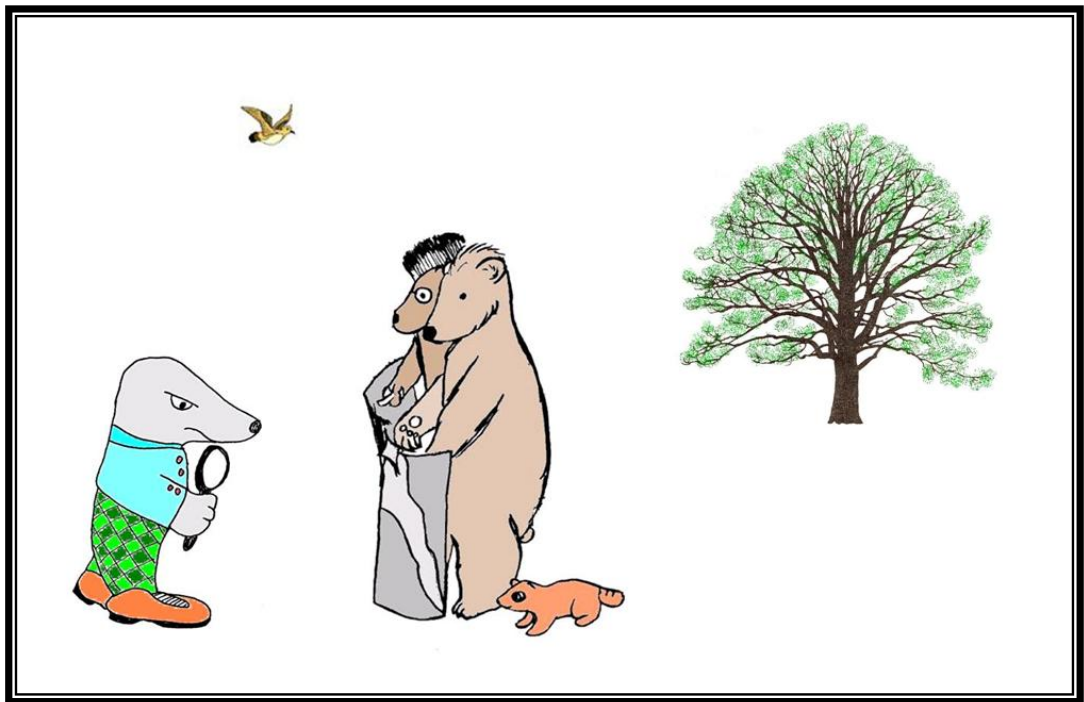


The War of Mirrors



Study Guide for Adults

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Based on the novel by E.J. Stewart
With Illustrations by William Stewart

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Published by Leaf & Vine Books
387 Ivy Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

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Pre-reading: Re-read *The Magician's Nephew*, by C.S. Lewis. In Chapter 11, Frank and Nellie are told they will become King and Queen of Narnia. In Chapter 14 we see the coronation of “King Frank of Narnia and Helen his Queen.”

How would you rule a kingdom if you were suddenly appointed its King or Queen?

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Examine the character of Livingstone Lion (The Living Stone).

p. 6 Why does he flip his tail over? Why does he wink at the King and Queen?

p. 15 Describe the Lion's relationship with the Wanderers.

p. 24 Compare the Lion's song with that of Aslan in *The Magician's Nephew*.

p. 35 What kind of business do you think The Living Stone had on The Other Side of the World? Do you think this was the reason that the Shooting Stars were "shooting" in the first place?

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- p. 45 What is The Living Stone's relationship with Cardinal Corvallis? What are the Ways of the Lion? Why didn't Corvallis have time to learn the Ways of the Lion one by one? What are the Several Wrongs?
- p. 53 Why did the Living Stone follow the royal carriage to The Swan Dive and back? Why didn't he go inside with them?
- p. 64 Describe the incident at the Timeless Trees. How would you interpret the Rainbow-colored Elf? How did Livingstone Lion control it? What would Happen if rainbow-colored elves got into the forest?
- p. 82 Why did The Living Stone wait until the Lone Loon was gone? What did he think about the "jack-o-lantern"? Discuss his lessons on kingship. Is there anything you think is not necessary? Is there anything you would add?

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pp. 103 – 104 How did Livingstone Lion celebrate Christmas? Discuss each of the gifts mentioned in the passage.

p. 113 Discuss Livingstone Lion's attitudes. What are his concerns? What does he think about his creatures' concerns?

p. 130 Why do you think the Lion was purring?

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Study the character of the Queen, and answer these questions:

p. 5 Comment on the Queen's fashion. What request does she make of the creatures?

p. 6 Why do you think the Queen saw the Lion wink, but the King did not?

pp. 19 – 21 Comment on the relationship between the Queen, Martha Mole, and the Maenad Maids.

Do you think Queen Nellie is a good spinet player?

Is she a good lyricist?

What indication does she give of the population of Larkwood?

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pp. 22 – 23 Contrast the Queen's dream with the King's dream (pp. 16-17).
How does her dream contribute to the story?

pp. 34 – 35 What do we know about the King's and Queen's attitude about poetry,
after reading their conversation during the Star Festival?

p. 41 How many times a day does the Queen change her scarf?
What happens to the used scarves?

p. 43 What reason does Mumford Mole give for his being a member of the King's
Council?

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pp. 46 – 48 Comment on the Queen’s role as collector of swans.

Notice her use of language as she talks to her son, George.

How does she answer his prompts: “Wa” “Ba” and “Shwa” ?

pp. 56 – 58 Were Queen Nellie’s expectations fulfilled by the Suck-n-Duck machine?

How did she respond? Why?

pp. 76 – 77 How did the Queen respond to the “lemon-drop” episode? How did Martha Mole respond? How did the Queen respond to the Marquis de Lop’s request? What game did she play after that? With whom?

pp. 96 – 97 How did the Queen celebrate Christmas? Comment on her gifts to King Herald and Prince George.

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pp. 106 – 109 Study the speeches made by Serendipity Squirrel and Wycliffe Wren Then read Herodotus, *The Histories*, IV, 118. Compare the speech made by the Scythians, trying to enlist the aid of their neighbors, when threatened by the army of Darius the Persian.

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pp. 116 – 118 What do you think was on the menu of a “Queen’s Breakfast”?

Describe Queen Nellie’s attitude toward the Star of Evening.

Who do you think is the best croquet player?

p. 130 Why do you think Queen Nellie slipped out of the front door while the King was making his speech? What was she thinking about?

What do think the Lark symbolizes?

Compare this with the bird in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

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How would you describe the relations between Larkwood and the Southern Kingdom?

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Read *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis. Compare the Marquis de Lop with Screwtape.

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What is the meaning of the River of Time? The Timeless Trees?

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What is the *Kamsah*? What do you think *The War of Mirrors* teaches us about tolerance of other religions, while maintaining the strength of our own convictions?

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Chapters 3, 5 Discuss each of the dreams in the story.

- 1) The Wheelbarrow (pp. 16-17)
- 2) Lawns and Hoses (p. 17)
- 3) The Baby plays the Spinet (p. 23)
- 4) Butterflies and Nettles (p. 40)

Find some dreams in the Bible. How do dreams affect people's lives?
How does God use dreams to communicate with mankind?

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What is the Southern Kingdom?

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What is the Cardinal Kingdom?

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Match the types of writing (1 – 5 on the left) with the sentences on the right:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1. Informative | a. The Queen plays peek-a-boo with George. |
| 2. Persuasive | b. The principles of Un-archy are best expressed by Un-poetry. |
| 3. Explanatory | c. Suddenly, one of the flour sacks moved! |
| 4. Narrative | d. Un-archy goes against the idea of having a king. |
| 5. Dramatic | e. The Twigs want to attack Castor's Ferry;
The Roots want to protect the Mirror Works. |

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Organize a debate, either as individuals or groups. Debate religion.

One group takes the side of the *Kamsah*, defended by the Marquis de Lop.

The other group argues the case of Larkwood, according to Corvallis Cardinal Cardinal.