

6th Grade Required Reading:

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis (ISBN-13: 978-0064404990)

- Read the book.
- Complete the tasks below.

Objective:

In this project, you will analyze and explore key elements of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. You will create a plot diagram, describe characters, identify a symbol and its meaning, and find a quote that illustrates the moral or lesson of the story. After completing your project, you will use your storyboard to prepare for a Socratic seminar discussion about the text.

Part 1: Plot Diagram (Storyboard)

Instructions:

1. **Create a storyboard** that outlines the major events of the plot in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.
 - Think of this as a visual representation of the main events of the story, drawn or illustrated in sequence.
 - You can create a traditional storyboard using drawings or a digital tool (such as Google Slides, Canva, or another app).
 - **Important events to include:**
 - Lucy first entering Narnia
 - Edmund's betrayal
 - Aslan's sacrifice
 - The defeat of the White Witch
 - The coronation of the Pevensie children in Narnia
2. **For each event, create a simple illustration** that represents it visually. This can be a drawing, a picture cut-out, or digital images.
3. **Label each event** with a brief (1-2 sentence) description, and be sure to include the page number where the event happens in the book.

Example of Storyboard Layout:

- **Panel 1: Lucy enters Narnia**
 - *Description:* "Lucy steps into the wardrobe and enters the magical land of Narnia for the first time" (Lewis 45).
 - *Illustration:* A picture of Lucy stepping into the wardrobe with the snowy world of Narnia behind her.

Part 2: Character Description

Instructions:

1. **Choose three main characters** from the book and write a 3-sentence description of each character.
 - Your description should focus on key personality traits, important actions, or character development.
 - **Character Suggestions:** Lucy, Edmund, Aslan, the White Witch, Peter, Susan
2. **For each character, include a page number** from the book to support your description.
 - Example: "Lucy is brave and kind-hearted, always believing in the goodness of Narnia, even when others don't" (Lewis 56).

Part 3: Symbol and Its Meaning

Instructions:

1. **Choose one symbol from the book** and explain what it represents in the story.
 - A **symbol** is an object, character, or event that stands for something beyond its literal meaning.
 - For example, the Stone Table in the book represents **sacrifice** and **redemption**, and Aslan's mane symbolizes **strength** and **nobility**.
2. **Write a paragraph (3-4 sentences)** explaining what your chosen symbol represents and how it connects to the themes of the story.
3. **Provide an illustration of the symbol** that you have chosen.
 - This can be a drawing or a cut-out image.
 - For example, if you choose the Stone Table, you might draw the table with a lion's paw print on it to symbolize Aslan's sacrifice.

Part 4: Quote & Moral of the Story

Instructions:

1. **Choose one quote from the book** that illustrates the moral or lesson of the story.
 - The moral of the story could be about themes such as courage, forgiveness, the battle between good and evil, or selflessness.
2. **Write the quote in MLA format.**
 - Be sure to include the page number for the quote.
 - **Example Quote:**
"When you have learned to love, you will know the true meaning of courage" (Lewis 128).

Final Presentation

1. **Organize your project** into a booklet, poster, or digital presentation.
 - Include your storyboard, character descriptions, symbol analysis, and quote.
 - Use color, creativity, and clear labels to make your project visually appealing and easy to understand.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Plot Diagram (Storyboard):** Clear sequence of events, well-drawn illustrations, descriptions with page numbers.
- **Character Descriptions:** Accurate and thoughtful, includes page numbers, well-written.
- **Symbol Analysis:** Thoughtful explanation, includes a detailed illustration, connects to the themes of the story.
- **Quote & Moral:** Correct MLA format, clear connection to the moral of the story.
- **Creativity:** Effective use of color, images, and design in the project.

Completed Project will be due **Monday, August 18, 2025.**

Part 5: Socratic Seminar Preparation (Will occur during the first full week of school)

1. **Use your storyboard to help you prepare for your Socratic seminar discussion.**
 - In the seminar, you will discuss key themes, events, and characters in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Your storyboard will serve as a visual reference to help you recall important moments and ideas from the book.
 - Be prepared to talk about:
 - How characters change throughout the story.
 - The role of symbols and how they contribute to the story's themes.
 - The moral of the story and how it applies to your own life.
2. **Review your character descriptions, symbol analysis, and quote** to support your ideas in the discussion.
 - Think about questions you can ask your classmates or topics you'd like to explore further during the seminar. We look forward to your thoughtful reflections during the seminar.

7th Grade Required Reading

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (ISBN-13: 978-0312367541)

- Read the book.
- Complete the tasks below.

Objective:

In this project, you will explore key elements of *A Wrinkle in Time*, including plot structure, character development, symbols, and themes. You will create a plot map (storyboard), describe characters, identify a symbol and its meaning, provide an illustration of the symbol, and analyze a key quote. You will also annotate one chapter of the book and use your storyboard to prepare for a Socratic seminar discussion about the text.

Part 1: Plot Diagram (Storyboard)

Instructions:

1. **Create a storyboard** that maps out the major events in *A Wrinkle in Time*.
 - Think of this as a visual timeline or map that represents the key events of the story in a sequence.
 - You can create this storyboard using drawings, digital tools (Google Slides, Canva, etc.), or a combination of both.
 - **Key events to include:**
 - Meg's introduction and her family situation
 - The arrival of Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Which, and Mrs. Who
 - The travel through the tesseract to another planet
 - Meg's search for her father
 - The confrontation with IT and the triumph over evil
2. **For each event, create a simple illustration** that represents it visually. This can be a drawing, a digital image, or a combination of both.
3. **Label each event with a brief (1-2 sentence) description** explaining its significance in the story.
4. **Include page numbers** to show where each event happens in the book.

Example of Storyboard Layout:

- **Panel 1: Meg's introduction**
 - *Description:* "Meg Murry struggles with school and family issues, especially feeling misunderstood after her father's disappearance" (L'Engle 1).
 - *Illustration:* A drawing of Meg in her room, feeling frustrated and alone.
 -

Part 2: Character Description

Instructions:

1. **Choose three characters** from the book and write a 3-sentence description for each character.
 - Your description should include key personality traits, important actions, or the character's development throughout the story.
 - **Character Suggestions:** Meg, Charles Wallace, Calvin, Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Which, Mrs. Who, IT, or even the Black Thing.
2. **Include a page number** from the book that supports your description.
 - Example: "Meg is brave and determined, even when facing great challenges like rescuing her father (L'Engle 122)".

Part 3: Symbol and Its Meaning

Instructions:

1. **Choose one symbol** from the book and explain what it represents.
 - A **symbol** is an object, character, or event that stands for something beyond its literal meaning.
 - For example, the **tesseract** symbolizes the power of love and the ability to transcend time and space, while **IT** represents the loss of individuality and the dangers of conformity.
2. **Write a paragraph (3-4 sentences)** explaining what your chosen symbol represents in the story.
3. **Provide an illustration of the symbol** you've chosen.
 - This can be a drawing or a cut-out image. For example, you could illustrate the **tesseract** as a swirling, four-dimensional object, or **IT** as a dark, oppressive presence.

Part 4: Quote & Moral of the Story

Instructions:

1. **Choose one quote** from the book that illustrates the moral or lesson of the story.
 - The moral of the story could be about the power of love, the importance of individuality, or the battle between good and evil.
2. **Provide the quote in MLA format.**
 - Be sure to include the page number where the quote appears.
 - **Example Quote:**
"Love. That was what she had to give. And that was what would save her father. And that was the one thing that IT did not have" (L'Engle 145).

Final Presentation

1. **Organize your work into a booklet, poster, or digital presentation.**
 - Include your storyboard, character descriptions, symbol analysis, quote with MLA citation, and chapter annotations.
 - Be sure your work is clear, visually engaging, and easy to understand.

Evaluation Criteria

- **Plot Map (Storyboard):** Clear and organized events, creative illustrations, labeled with page numbers.
- **Character Descriptions:** Accurate and thoughtful, supported by page numbers.
- **Symbol Analysis:** Thoughtful explanation, includes a detailed illustration, connects to the themes of the story.
- **Quote & Moral:** Correct MLA format, clear connection to the moral of the story.
- **Chapter Annotation:** Thoughtful, well-explained notes that connect to the book's themes and characters.
- **Creativity and Presentation:** Neat, organized, and visually appealing work.

Completed project will be due **Monday, August 18, 2025.**

Part 5: Chapter Annotation

Instructions:

1. **Annotate Chapter 7.**
 - As you read the chapter, make notes in the margins that explain the significance of key passages, words, or events.
 - You should highlight important quotes, explain character development, or note how a particular passage relates to the book's themes using the guide provided.
2. **Annotation Guide:** Annotating is more than just adding symbols to a selection. Annotating **is adding short notes in the margins to explain the logic and critical thinking associated with the symbols.** For example, if an unfamiliar word is circled, then be sure to make a guess in the margin as to what you think the word may mean. Likewise, if there is a question about the text, be sure to list what questions you have or what it is that you find confusing. Remember, annotating includes commenting and explaining, not just marks and symbols.

Use the following guidelines to help you with your annotations:

- **Key Quotes:** Find quotes that are important to the plot or the development of a character. Write a short explanation of why this quote is significant.
- **Character Development:** Note moments where characters change, learn, or experience something new.

- **Themes:** Identify passages that relate to the major topics of the story, such as the struggle between good and evil, the importance of love, or the power of individuality.
- **Questions:** Write down any questions you have about the text, characters, or themes that you can bring up during your Socratic seminar discussion.

Marks	Meaning	Action
*	Important information will be (*Ch) characters, (*Co) conflict, (*S) setting, (*T) theme	Briefly note what is important about the characters, conflict, setting, or theme.
ME	Main events in the story... think plot diagram	Briefly note what is happening
Circle	Unfamiliar Word	Write down a guess for the definition of the word based on context clues.
?	Question or Confusing	Write down your question
!	Surprising or Interesting	Write down what is surprising or interesting.
∞	Text connections (text to self, text, world, media)	Briefly note what the connection is.

Sample Text Annotation

Every time, just before I take off in a race, I always feel like I'm in a dream, the kind of dream you have when you're sick with fever and feel all hot and weightless. I dream I'm flying over a sandy beach in the early morning sun, kissing the leaves of the trees as I fly by. And there's always the smell of apples, just like in the country when I was little and used to think I was a choo-choo train, running through the fields of corn and chugging up the hill to the orchard. And all the time I'm dreaming this, I get lighter and lighter until I'm flying over the beach again, getting blown through the sky like a feather that weighs nothing at all. But once I spread my fingers in the dirt and crouch over the Get on Your Mark, the dream goes and I am solid again and am telling myself, Squeaky you must win, you must win, you are the fastest thing in the world, you can even beat your father up Amsterdam if you really try. And then I feel my weight coming back just behind my knees then down to my feet then into the earth and the pistol shot explodes in my blood and I am off and weightless again, flying past the other runners, my arms pumping up and down and the whole world is quiet except for the crunch as I zoom over the gravel in the track. I glance to my left and there is no one. To the right, a blurred Gretchen, who's got her chin flapping out as if it would win the race all by itself. And on the other side of the fence is Raymond with his arms down to his side and the palms tucked up behind him, running in his very own style, and it's the first time I ever saw that and I almost stop to watch my brother Raymond on his first run. But the white ribbon is bouncing toward me and I tear past it, racing into the distance till my feet with a mind of their own start digging up footfuls of dirt and brake me short. Then all the kids standing on the side pile on me, banging me on the back and slapping my head with their May Day programs, for I have won again and everybody on 151st Street can walk tall for another year. ME - narrator won the race

Strange things to think about when running!

** new characters Raymond and Gretchen*

What are May Day programs?

? Where is the narrator?

** narrator = Squeaky*

pointed

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations (25-20)	Meets Expectations (19-15)	Approaching Expectations (14-10)	Below Expectations (9-0)
Key Quotes & Explanation (25 points)	Selects 3 or more key quotes and provides thorough, insightful explanations of their significance to the plot, characters, or themes.	Selects 2-3 key quotes and provides clear explanations of their significance to the plot, characters, or themes.	Selects 1-2 quotes but explanations are vague or lacking depth.	Fewer than 1 key quote or explanations are unclear or missing.
Character Development (20 points)	Identifies 2 or more significant character changes and provides clear, thoughtful analysis of how characters develop.	Identifies 1-2 character changes and provides a general analysis of their development.	Identifies character development but lacks depth or explanation.	Does not identify significant character changes or fails to explain them.
Theme Connections (20 points)	Identifies multiple passages related to the theme and explains them in detail, connecting them to the overall message of the book.	Identifies 1-2 passages related to the theme and provides a general explanation of their significance.	Mentions theme but the connections to the text are unclear or minimal.	Fails to identify or explain connections to the theme.
Questions & Curiosity (15 points)	Asks 3 or more thoughtful, open-ended questions that demonstrate deep thinking about the text.	Asks 2-3 relevant questions that show some curiosity about the text.	Asks 1-2 questions but they are too basic or lack depth.	Does not ask questions or questions are irrelevant to the text.
Annotations & Marks (10 points)	Uses 4 or more annotation marks (*, ME, ?, !, ∞) thoughtfully and accurately throughout the chapters, with clear explanations for each.	Uses 3 marks appropriately, with adequate explanations for each.	Uses 1-2 marks but explanations are unclear or incomplete.	Uses fewer than 1 mark or fails to explain the marks properly.
Overall Engagement with Text (10 points)	Annotations demonstrate thorough understanding,	Annotations show solid understanding and moderate	Annotations show minimal engagement, with some areas	Annotations show little or no engagement with the text.

	critical thinking, and strong engagement with the text.	engagement with the text.	missing or unclear.	
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Part 6: Socratic Seminar Preparation (Will occur during the first full week of school)

1. **Use your storyboard and annotations to help you prepare for your Socratic seminar discussion.**
 - In the seminar, you will discuss key themes, events, and characters from *A Wrinkle in Time*. Your storyboard will serve as a visual reference to help you recall important moments and ideas from the book.
 - Be prepared to talk about:
 - How characters evolve throughout the story.
 - The role of symbols and their meaning in the story.
 - The central moral or lesson of the book, and how it connects to your own experiences.
2. **Review your annotations, character descriptions, and symbol analysis** to help you support your ideas during the seminar.
 - Think about questions or insights you can share with your classmates based on your project work.

8th Grade Required Reading

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton (ISBN-13: 978-0142407332)

- Read the book.
- Complete the tasks below.

Objective:

In this project, you will analyze *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton, focusing on the symbols, conflicts, character development, and themes of the novel. You will create a Google Slides or Canva presentation to showcase your analysis, supported by quotes from the text using MLA 9 formatting. After completing the project, you will use your presentation to prepare for a Socratic seminar discussion on the novel.

Part 1: Google Slide Presentation

1. Create Your Presentation:

- **Format:** You will use **Google Slides** or **Canva** to create your presentation.
- Your presentation must have at least **6 slides** (one for each of the following sections).

2. Slide Breakdown:

Slide 1: Title Slide

- Include your name, the title of the book and author, and your *unique* project title. The book title should be italicized.

Slide 2: Symbolism

- **Objective:** Identify one important symbol from *The Outsiders* and explain its meaning.
- **Instructions:**
 - Choose a symbol from the book
 - Explain how the symbol connects to the theme of the story.
 - Include a **quote** from the book that illustrates this symbol in context.
 - Include an image of the symbol

Slide 3: Conflict

- **Objective:** Identify and explain the key conflicts in *The Outsiders* (man vs. self, man vs. man).
- **Instructions:**
 - Describe **two main types of conflict** in the novel:

- **Man vs. Self:** The internal conflict a character experiences, such as struggling with identity or decisions.
- **Man vs. Man:** The external conflict between characters
- Choose **one example** of each conflict from the book and explain how it impacts the story and characters.
- Provide a **quote** from the book for each type of conflict.

Slide 4: Character Analysis

- **Objective:** Choose **two characters** from the book and analyze them.
- **Instructions:**
 - Include an image of each character
 - Write a brief (3-4 sentence) analysis for each character.
 - Describe their personalities, key traits, and character development throughout the novel.
 - Include **quotes** from the book to support your analysis.

Slide 5: Theme

- **Objective:** Identify the **central theme** of *The Outsiders*.
- **Instructions:**
 - **Definition of Theme:**
Theme is the central idea, message, or insight about life that the author explores throughout the novel. It is usually a universal concept that the story illustrates through its plot, characters, and setting.
 - State a **topic** from the novel that you use to develop your thematic statement(e.g., the importance of family, social class division, loyalty).
 - Write a **thematic statement:** A thematic statement is a sentence or two that expresses the central message or lesson of the work.
 - Example: In *The Giver*, Lois Lowry explores the theme of individuality versus conformity within a controlled society. The community enforces strict rules that eliminate emotional depth, such as when Jonas is told, "We relinquished color when we relinquished sunshine and did away with differences" (Lowry 95).
 - Explain how this theme is developed throughout the book and provide **evidence** (a quote) from the text to support your idea.

Slide 6: Works Cited

- **Objective:** Use proper MLA 9 format
- **Instructions:**
 - Write Works Cited at the top of the slide. Center the text. Do not bold the text. Do not enhance the text.
 - Copy and paste the text provided onto the slide.

Hinton, S.E. *The Outsiders*. Penguin, 1967.

MLA 9 Citation Requirements for Quotes:

- All quotes from *The Outsiders* should be cited properly in MLA format.

Example Quote Citation:

"Things are rough all over, but it was better that way" (Hinton 123).

MLA format follows the author-page method of in-text citation. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s) from which the quotation or paraphrase is taken must appear in the text, **and** a complete reference should appear on your Works Cited page.

Final Presentation:

1. Design & Organization:

- Your presentation should be **clear, organized, and visually engaging**. Use images, colors, and fonts to make your slides appealing but not overcrowded.
- Each slide should have **clear headings** and **brief, well-organized content**.

Evaluation Criteria:

- **Content:**
 - Clear and accurate analysis of symbols, conflicts (man vs. self, man vs. man), characters, and themes.
 - Thoughtful and well-supported quotes from the text using MLA format.
- **Creativity and Design:**
 - Visually appealing and well-organized slides that support your analysis.

Completed project will be due **Monday, August 18, 2025.**

Part 2: Chapter Annotation

Instructions:

3. Choose **two** chapters from the book to annotate.
 - As you read the chapter, make notes in the margins that explain the significance of key passages, words, or events.
 - You should highlight important quotes, explain character development, or note how a particular passage relates to the book's themes using the guide provided.

4. **Annotation Guide:** Annotating is more than just adding symbols to a selection. Annotating is adding short notes in the margins to explain the logic and critical thinking associated with the symbols. For example, if an unfamiliar word is circled, then be sure to make a guess in the margin as to what you think the word may mean. Likewise, if there is a question about the text, be sure to list what questions you have or what it is that you find confusing. Remember, annotating includes commenting and explaining, not just marks and symbols.

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- **Character Development:** Note moments where characters change, learn, or experience something new.
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- **Questions:** Write down any questions you have about the text, characters, or themes that you can bring up during your Socratic seminar discussion.

Marks	Meaning	Action
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Sample Text Annotation

Strange things to think about when running

* new characters Raymond and Gretchen

What are May Day programs?

Every time, just before I take off in a race, I always feel like I'm in a dream, the kind of dream you have when you're sick with fever and feel all hot and weightless. I dream I'm flying over a sandy beach in the early morning sun, kissing the leaves of the trees as I fly by. And there's always the smell of apples, just like in the country when I was little and used to think I was a choo-choo train, running through the fields of corn and chugging up the hill to the orchard. And all the time I'm dreaming this, I get lighter and lighter until I'm flying over the beach again, getting blown through the sky like a feather that weighs nothing at all. But once I spread my fingers in the dirt and crouch over the Get on Your Mark, the dream goes and I am solid again and am telling myself, Squeaky you must win, you must win, you are the fastest thing in the world, you can even beat your father up Amsterdam if you really try. And then I feel my weight coming back just behind my knees then down to my feet then into the earth and the pistol shot explodes in my blood and I am off and weightless again, flying past the other runners, my arms pumping up and down and the whole world is quiet except for the crunch as I zoom over the gravel in the track. I glance to my left and there is no one. To the right, a blurred Gretchen, who's got her chin putting out as if it would win the race all by itself. And on the other side of the fence is Raymond with his arms down to his side and the palms tucked up behind him, running in his very own style, and it's the first time I ever saw that and I almost stop to watch my brother Raymond on his first run. But the white ribbon is bouncing toward me and I tear past it, racing into the distance till my feet with a mind of their own start digging up footfuls of dirt and brake me short. Then all the kids standing on the side pile on me, banging me on the back and slapping my head with their May Day programs, for I have won again and everybody on 151st Street can walk tall for another year. ME - narrator won the race

? Where is the narrator?

* narrator = Squeaky

pointed

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	critical thinking, and strong engagement with the text.	engagement with the text.	missing or unclear.	
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Part 3: Socratic Seminar Prep (Will occur during the first full week of school)

- **Objective:** Prepare for your Socratic seminar discussion.
- **Instructions:**
 - List **3-4 questions** or discussion points you'd like to raise during the Socratic seminar.
 - These questions should relate to the themes, symbols, conflicts, or characters in *The Outsiders* and be designed to spark thoughtful discussion.
 - Example questions:
 - "How does Ponyboy's understanding of the divide between the Greasers and Socs change throughout the novel?"
 - "What role does family play in the characters' lives? Is family defined by blood or by loyalty in the story?"
 - "How does the symbol of sunsets reflect the common humanity between the Greasers and the Socs?"