

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (Published by Dell Publishing)

Approved for use in Communication Arts, Grade 6

Summary

Meg Murry and Charles Wallace have lost their father in a tesseract accident. Three witches: Mrs. Who, Mrs. Whatsit, and Mrs. Which help the siblings find their father on another planet; their father is being controlled by IT. Charles Wallace soon falls under the spell of IT. With the true love of his sister, Charles Wallace is able to break the spell of IT and together they return home to their awaiting mother.

Connection to the Curriculum

The main theme running throughout this book is love. Love always wins, and the love between siblings is strong. The characters must come to terms with the qualities they possess along with their shortcomings. Together they triumph over evil and learn that individual differences are who you are. Science fiction and fantasy are blended in this book and create a fascinating journey for the imagination. Students may examine the elements of this genre along with the elements of characterization, setting, and theme.

Standards

Course Objectives (Benchmarks)

Reading: 1.2- The students read fluently. 1.3- The students expand vocabulary. 1.4- The students comprehend a variety of texts.

Literature: 2.1- The students use literary concepts to interpret and respond to text.

Possible Skills Taught (Indicators)

Reading:

1.2.1- The student uses knowledge of conventions and text features to read fluently at instructional or independent reading levels.

1.3.5- The student determines the meaning of words or phrases using context clues from sentences or paragraphs.

1.4.13- The student generates and responds logically to literal, inferential, and critical thinking questions before, during, and after the reading of the text.

1.4.16- The student compares and contrasts varying aspects (e.g., characters' traits and motives, themes, problem-solution, cause-effect relationships, ideas and concepts, procedures, viewpoints) in one or more appropriate-level texts.

1.4.20- The student identifies and describes the author's purpose (e.g., to inform, to give directions, to entertain) and basic techniques the author uses to achieve that purpose.

Literature:

2.1.2- The student identifies and describes the setting (e.g., environment, time of day or year, historical period, situation, place) and explains the importance of the setting to the story or literary text.

2.1.3- The student identifies major and minor events related to the conflict in a story (e.g., crisis/turning moment, climax, resolution) and explains how one event gives rise to another.

2.1.4- The student understands aspects of theme (e.g. moral, lesson, meaning, message, author's ideas about the subject) and supports with implicit/explicit information from the text.

A Note on the Text

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

This novel involves the idea of space travel in the context of science fiction. The kids encounter some mild teasing in a classroom setting.

Additional Unit Design Connections

Coming soon:

To be completed during future curriculum development activities