

# Unit Overview: Parent Guide

## *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, Grade 5

### What is the goal of this unit?

- Your child will read fiction and nonfiction texts to explore how literature can teach us real lessons about life. Your child will read fantasy and explore lessons about good v. evil, courage, adventure, forgiveness, and honesty. Then your child will show their learning by writing a fantasy story.

### What topics and skills is your fifth grader learning in this unit?

- Fantasy
- Author's purpose
- Storytelling and Imagination
- Narrative writing
- Point of View

### What tasks will your child engage in to help them consider the topics and skills of this unit?

- **Culminating Writing Task:** Your child will bring together all her learning near the end of the unit by writing an essay in response to the prompt: Rewrite a scene from *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* from the point of view of Edmund, Aslan, or the White Witch.
- **Extension Task:** Your child will extend her learning by working in a group to create a visual representation (print, nonprint, recorded, or live action) of a selected scene from a text from the unit.

### Your child will read these texts, watch these videos and listen to these audio clips:

Text Title	Author/Source	How it is used in the Unit
<i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i>	C.S. Lewis	Main text of the unit
"The Grand Illusion: A Century of Special Effects"	NOVA Online (PBS.org)	Read Aloud
"How Special Effects Artists Work"	Dave Roos	Read Aloud
"Adventures of Isabel"	Ogden Nash	Student Text

<i>The Secret Garden</i>	Frances Hodgson Burnett	Student Text
<i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>	Lewis Carroll	Student Text
"A Brief History of Movie Special Effects"	TIME	Read Aloud
"Alice in Wonderland - Visual Effects Highlights"		Read Aloud

### Ideas for discussing fantasy, creativity, and imagination

- Where do your best ideas come from?
- How can stories teach us about life?
- What is fantasy?
- What can we learn from fantasy?
- What are some other fantasy stories we know?
- What makes a story a fantasy?
- How can creativity or imagination be helpful in life?

Want to deepen your and your child's knowledge on the topic being studied?

Here is a suggested book list:

Title	Author
<i>The Girl Who Could Fly</i>	Victoria Forester
<i>Green Boy</i>	Susan Cooper
<i>The Search for Delicious</i>	Natalie Babbitt
<i>The Storm Makers</i>	Jennifer E. Smith
<i>The White Mountains</i>	John Christopher
<i>What Came from The Stars</i>	Gary D. Schmidt
<i>The Freedom Maze</i>	Delia Sherman

### What does independent reading look like at home?

Independent reading gives your child the opportunity to read and interact with books

that are on her reading level and that address topics that she chooses. Supporting independent reading at home helps build your child's confidence with reading, her reading stamina and reading achievement, and will help her do better in school.

Here are some ways you can encourage independent reading at home:

- Let your child pick out books that she finds interesting
- Prioritize reading. Protect time every day for reading (weekends and school breaks too!). Before bedtime is a great time to read.
- Read together
- Read aloud
- Discuss your child's reading. Ask questions like:
  - Tell me about what you read today.
  - What did you like about it?
  - What didn't you like about it?
  - What did you learn?
  - What questions do you have about what you read?
  - What didn't you understand about what you read?
  - What do you want to learn more about after reading?
  - How does what you've read connect to other things you've read?