

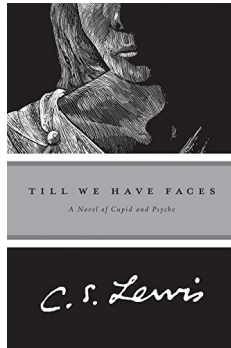


Westminster Christian Academy

10th Grade Summer Reading

Literature of Western Civilization

Caroline Hinrichs and Heidi Thies



Please read the first 21 chapters of *Till We Have Faces* by C.S. Lewis.

Why are you reading this book?

- This is a story of redemption (the act of being saved from one's sin) of the main character, Orual. The first part of the book (Part 1) is before her redemption. Upon returning to school, you will read Part 2 and learn of Orual's redemption and consider aspects of the story that reveal what it means to be human.
- Redemption and the attributes of humanity are themes that you will explore throughout the year in Literature of Western Civilization in literature, writing, and personal reflection.

What to read BEFORE school starts?

- Part I (chapters 1-21) by Tuesday, August 18
- **Note: You are NOT required to read Part 2 (the last four chapters of the entire book) this summer; we will read it together at the beginning of the school year. Just read Part I (chapters 1-21) by August 18.**
- **Helpful tips:** 1) Many students feel it is easier to understand when they listen to the audio and follow along with the text while annotating. You can find this book on YouTube and Amazon/Audible. 2) Utilize the following pages to guide you in understanding the text if you feel that you need extra help with reading.

How should you read this book?

- Annotate for:
 - Orual's flaws
 - Turning points in the story
 - Relationship development between major characters
 - References to "faces" and identity

How will you be assessed on what you understood from this book?

- You will be asked to identify turning points (a point in the story when a character changes his/her way of living due to choices made or circumstances changing) in the story.
- There will be a TEST within the first week of school to ensure you understand the facts of the story. The test will include quote identification, multiple choice, short answer, and essay. You will review with your class and be given a study guide upon returning to school.
 - **How to prepare for the test:** Read the assigned book (it may be helpful to listen to the audiobook while following along in the book). Annotate and highlight the assigned prompts (see above) from each chapter.
 - **Writing Assignments:** There will be a writing workshop/in-class essay over this novel in the first few weeks of school.

Important to know before reading the book: Symbolism

- Orual = you/us (man's questions, doubts, fears, hopes, and beliefs about God) -Pronounced Or-u-e
- Psyche = a Christ figure - Pronounced Sigh-key
- Fox = logic (man's attempt to understand God and the world)
- Bardia = heart (unquestioning faith in God)

*** As you read, consider how each of these characters relates to what/whom they symbolize.

Background of the story:

Till We Have Faces is a wonderful retelling of the Greek myth of Cupid and Psyche. In this myth, Psyche is not allowed to see her husband, Cupid, at all. However, Psyche is coerced into stealing a look at her husband and in doing this, her world falls apart. C. S. Lewis takes a brilliant twist and tells the story from Psyche's older sister's point of view. The older sister's name is Orual. This story can be interpreted in a lot of different ways, but **C.S. Lewis intended for Christians to find answers of who God is and what our relationship to Him is as we read the story of the sisters' fall and redemption.**

Characters (in order of their relative importance)

1. ORUAL: the Narrator and the subject of the story, who brings her "complaint against the gods" and who learns, at the end, how selfish her love for Psyche (and others) has really been.
2. LYSIAS (THE FOX): captured Greek, a slave then a freeman in the court of Glome; mentor of Orual and her best friend.

3. BARDIA: captain of the troops of Glome; Orual's steadfast friend and servant.
4. TROM (KING OF GLOME): a bloated man ridden by coarse passions, sudden in anger but not without craftiness, with some remnants of a good heart; father of Orual, Istra, and Redival.
5. ISTR (PSYCHE): third daughter of the King of Glome; half-sister of Orual and Redival; the victim in the Great Sacrifice to the Shadowbrute; object of Orual's love; the "natural Christian."
6. REDIVAL: second daughter of the King of Glome.
7. ARNOM (NEW PRIEST): priest of the local goddess Ungit, after the death of the old Priest.
8. PRIEST OF UNGIT: in the time of troubles, who orders the Great Sacrifice.
9. ANSIT: wife of Bardia.
10. TRUNIA: prince of Phars, seeking to wrest the throne from his brother Argan.
11. ARGAN: prince of Phars, designated by his father to succeed him.
12. TARIN: brief love interest of Redival, later returns to Glome as emissary of the great king of Persia.
13. BATT: old nurse to Orual, Redival, and Istra; vulgar, shrewish, tattling.
14. GRAM: a subordinate officer to Bardia.
15. POOBI: young serving-girl to Orual.