

A Wrinkle in Time Discussion Starters

Ch. 1-3 Discussion Starters

1. What are your reactions to Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Which, and Mrs. Who? What sort of beings do you think they are?
2. What do you think of Meg? How does she handle difficult situations? Consider: (a) her behavior at school, (b) her relationship with her brother and mother, and (c) her reaction to Calvin.
3. What are some of the ways the Murry family is unusual?
4. Why is Calvin comfortable with the Murrys?
5. **Literary Concept – Conflict:** A conflict is a struggle between opposing forces. Conflicts advance the plot of *A Wrinkle in Time*. What are some of the conflicts you have noticed so far?
6. When Meg tells Mrs. Murry about all the things she doesn't understand, her mother says, "But you see, Meg, just because we don't understand doesn't mean an explanation doesn't exist." Give some examples of things in our world that people don't understand yet.

Ch. 4-6 Discussion Starters

1. Do you think the children should enter the CENTRAL Intelligence building? Why or why not?
2. Evaluate the Black Thing. Do you think it can be defeated? Consider: (a) how L'Engle portrays the Black Thing, (b) what the Black Thing represents, and (c) who has fought against it.
3. **Literary Concept – Setting:** Camazotz is one of the planets under the control of the Black Thing. What aspects of this setting make it different from Earth? How do people's lives there differ from the lives of people on Earth?
4. According to Mrs. Whatsit, of the three children, Charles will face the greatest danger on Camazotz. Why?
5. Do you think tessering through time and space could ever happen? Explain.
6. Mrs. Whatsit tells Charles Wallace, Meg, and Calvin that many people from Earth have fought the Black Thing. What do some of those great fighters have in common?

Ch. 7-9 Discussion Starters

1. What image from this section lingers in your mind? Why?
2. What is IT able to take over Charles Wallace's mind but not Meg's? Consider: (a) Meg's faults, (b) Charles Wallace's faults, and (c) Mrs. Whatsit's warning.
3. What evil has IT done to the people of Camazotz? Describe the aspect that seems the worst to you.
4. After her initial happiness at finding her father, Meg becomes angry with him. Is she being fair? Why or what not?
5. What are some ways people try to control the behavior of other people? For example, some people think advertisements are a form of mind control. What do you think?

Ch. 10-12 Discussion Starters

1. Describe your reaction to the ending of the novel.
2. Do you think Mr. Murry has failed his children as a father? Why or why not?
3. **Literary Concept – Conflict:** Meg's main conflict is with IT. How does she win the struggle? Does her "secret weapon" make sense to you? Explain your answer.
4. What does Meg learn by having to rescue Charles Wallace alone?
5. How do you think IT and the Black Thing are related?
6. **Literary Concept – Setting:** Setting involves temperature, light, color, and sound as well as purely visual details. The planet Ixchel is an unusual setting. Contrast Ixchel with Earth.
7. Who do you think Aunt Beast represents? Why? Consider: (a) Aunt Beast feeds and heals Meg, (b) Aunt Beast is fighting the Black Thing, and (c) she doesn't know what things look like, but she knows what things are like.