



# KITTATINNY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

## SUMMER READING PROGRAM - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade into 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### A Wrinkle in Time

*Madeleine L'Engle*

A Wrinkle in Time is a “science fantasy” about the journey of three children to find a missing man, and perhaps help save the universe. The main character, 12-year old Meg Murry is having problems at school. She is bored with schoolwork and doesn't seem to fit in with the other kids. Meg has 10-year old twin brothers, but she is closest to her 5-year old brother, Charles Wallace.

Meg's father has been missing for some time. Some people think that Mr. Murry abandoned the family, but Meg and her mother believe that Mr. Murry is doing important government work and, for some unknown reason can't return to them. Charles Wallace has made friends with a very odd lady, Mrs. Whatsit and her two friends, Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which. They are planning to take Charles Wallace, Meg, and an older boy from school, Calvin O'Keefe, on a trip ... maybe to find their father.

This is where the fantasy begins .....

#### QUESTIONS TO GUIDE YOUR READING

These questions will help you think about the important parts of each chapter. Answer them in complete sentences on another sheet of paper and turn them in to your 7<sup>th</sup> grade literature/reading teacher at the beginning of school in September.

**Remember, this book does not count for extra credit; it is required.**

#### CHAPTER 1

- What do Meg Murry's actions tell you about her?
- How does Meg feel about her family?
- How is Charles Wallace different from most 5-year-olds?
- How do we know that Mrs. Whatsit is odd – but friendly?
- What does Mrs. Murry's treatment of Mrs. Whatsit tell you about Mrs. Murry?

#### CHAPTER 2

- Why does the school principal, Mr. Jenkins, want Meg to accept that her father is never coming home? Should Meg believe him? Why? Why not?
- In what ways are the twins, Sandy and Dennys, different from the rest of the Murry family?
- Why do the twins think Meg has so much trouble at school? What does Mrs. Who say to Meg that lets us know that something is about to happen?

#### CHAPTER 3

- How is Calvin's home life different from Meg's?
- What does Mrs. Murry mean when she says, “...just because we don't understand doesn't mean the explanation doesn't exist.”
- What is a “willing suspension of belief”? How does having a willing suspension of belief help Mrs. Murry?
- Are you surprised when the children go with Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which? Why do they go with the strange women?

#### CHAPTER 4

- Why does Mrs. Who like to quote?
- Why do you think Calvin is asked to go on the journey with Megan and Charles Wallace?

#### CHAPTER 5

- What does the children's experience in a two-dimensional planet tell you about teaser travel?
- During their journey, the children learn about the Dark Thing. What do you think the Dark Thing really is?
- Who are some of the famous people mentioned as fighting the Dark Thing? What do they all have in common?

#### CHAPTER 6

- Why is the Happy Medium's worst trouble “getting fond”?
- Describe the planet Camazotz.
- What do the children learn about the people of Camazotz? How do you know?

#### CHAPTER 7

- Charles Wallace says they can't make decisions based on fear. Do you agree? Explain.
- When the man with red eyes tries to take over the children's minds, whom does Meg scream for and why?
- What mistake does Charles Wallace make when he meets the man with the red eyes?

#### CHAPTER 8

- Charles Wallace seems well and happy, just as the man with red eyes says he is. How does Meg know that Charles Wallace's mind and heart have been taken over?
- Describe what life is like on Camazotz.
- How do they keep people from suffering on Camazotz?
- What do you think IT is?

#### CHAPTER 9

- Why does Charles Wallace want to take Mrs. Who's spectacles from Meg?
- Do you believe, as Meg does, that Mr. Murry will really save them? Why or why not?
- Explain the phrase “like and equal are two entirely different things.” How does this idea help Meg?

#### CHAPTER 10

- Why is Meg so sick after escaping from IT?
- What are Meg's feelings about her father, brother, and Calvin after escaping from IT? Do you think she should feel this way? Explain.
- What do you think of Mr. Murry's reasons for not rescuing Charles Wallace? Do you agree with him? Why or why not?

#### CHAPTER 11

- What is it about the beast that convinces Meg to trust her?
- Why is the name Aunt Beast a good one for this alien creature?
- Why do the time travelers have so much trouble explaining Mrs. Whatsit to the creatures on Ixchel?

#### CHAPTER 12

- Why doesn't Meg hug Mrs. Whatsit when she appears on Ixchel?
- Why does Meg have to be the one to go after Charles Wallace?
- How does Mr. Murry help Meg on the journey back to Camazotz?
- What gift does Mrs. Whatsit give Meg for her journey back to Camazotz? What is Mrs. Which's gift?
- What does Meg have that IT doesn't have? Is this something she can use in other situations? If so, how?