

Name: _____

Date: _____

Homeroom: _____

Class: _____

The Magician's Nephew (1-9) "In Those Days"

Lesson Objective: Analyze how the narrator forms a relationship with readers in the opening of *The Magician's Nephew*.

Do Now

Directions: Look closely at this illustration from p. 5 of *The Magician's Nephew*. What do you notice about the characters and the setting?

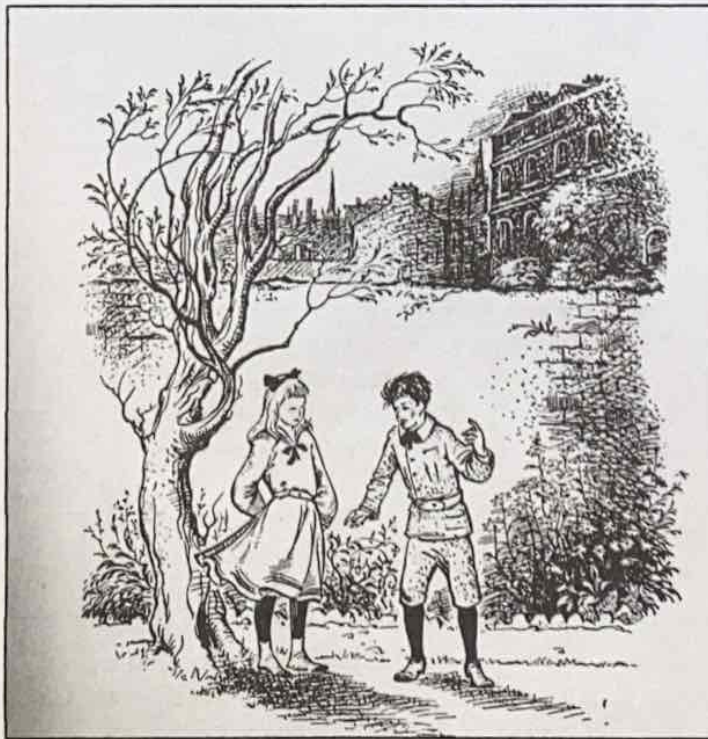
Consider:

who

where

4 min to jot notes
2 min debrief

- What are they wearing?
- What might they be feeling?
- Where might they be?
- What could they be saying to each other?



BPQ
What do you see in the background?

MOP: Turn + Talk, precall 2 to share out

characters

clothing - old fashioned, not modern



setting - outside, garden, in a city (skyline)

feeling/saying - may be upset, arguing

Notes

is this similar to what we wear now?

Vocabulary: Indignantly, Humbly Rollout: 5min

Word	Definition	Related Parts of Speech	Situations	Image
indignantly adverb	done in a way that shows anger at something unfair or wrong	indignant adjective indignation noun	<p>cc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I didn't touch it!" she exclaimed indignantly when her sister wrongly accused her of stealing her sweatshirt. Why might she feel indignantly? Read her dialogue indignantly. <p>T+T</p>	<p>What about this person's body language looks indignantly? [hands]</p> 
humbly adverb	done in a way that minimizes one's own importance or reflects a spirit of respect	humble adjective humility noun	<p>cc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The boy humbly asked the famous potter if he could be his apprentice. Why might the boy ask humbly? What might his humble request sound like? <p>T+T</p>	

1-2 share

What humble action does this image show?
↳ if time

Vocabulary Active Practice

[5 min]

As we apply our new word knowledge, be sure to use the vocabulary word in your answer!

1. ~~Complete this sentence:~~ When my brother got home, I could tell he was miserable because...

T+T share out
one of each

2. Which situation might make you react more indignantly? Why?

a. Your parent thanks your sister for doing the dishes when you had done them

b. Your sister claims she'd done the dishes when really you had done them

angry b/c it's
unfair
angry b/c
she's lying

"I would react indignantly because..."

3. Would it be possible to humbly brag about yourself? Why or why not?

challenge - early finishers

4. What might a humble apology sound like? What about an indignant apology? Which might be more likely to be accepted? Why?

TNT to answer what each would sound like
(model if struggling)

2 min silent solo to answer which would be
accepted

*Intro: excited to start reading The MN, first in the Narnia Series. C.S. Lewis wrote in 1955 but set in 1900s (time period when he was a child) characters in DN image are Polly/Digory, about to meet)

Pages 3-6

TNT

1. Turn and Talk: How do Polly and Digory meet? What does Polly first notice about Digory? (AT)

- Digory looks over the wall into P's garden
- P. notices dirty face recently crying

*Note: text written almost 70 yrs ago, words/references may be unfamiliar → use chart

Word	Meaning
grubby	dirty
blubbing	crying
beastly	terrible
Hole	awful place
mad	insane/crazy

2. Complete each of the following sentences:

Digory is miserable because he left his home / his mother is ill / he is living with his Aunt and "mad" uncle

Digory is miserable, but Polly didn't realize this at first / Polly teases him (Does Polly treat him like he's miserable? How do her actions contrast w/ his feeling?)

Digory is miserable, so he doesn't care Polly knows he is crying

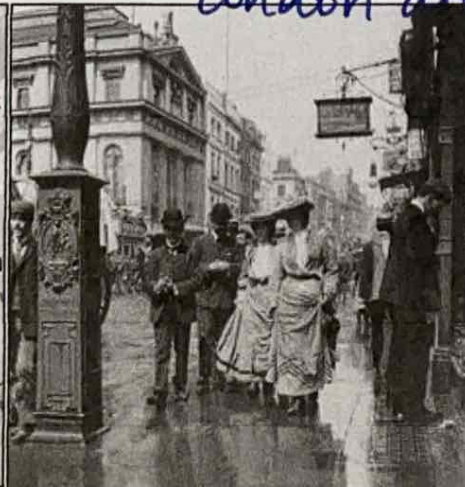
3. When Polly and Digory first meet, they are in London, the capital city of England and the United Kingdom (see map below). Find two pieces of evidence on pp. 4-5 that show how Polly's and Digory's views on London are different.

*IF time

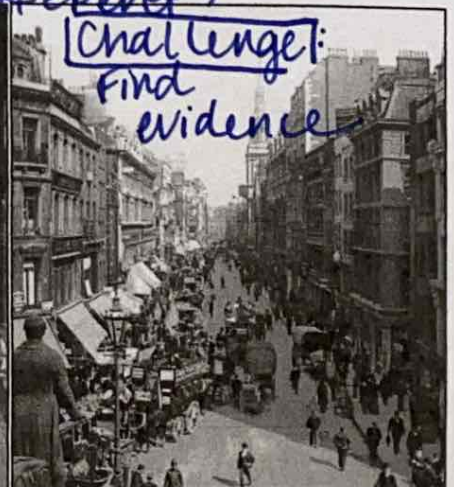
T+T How are Polly's and Digory's views on London different?



Map of Europe



Fashionable Londoners, 1904



Challenge: Find evidence

London street, 1900

Notes
Digory: dislikes London, misses his home
Polly: defends London, indignant when Digory insults it

15 min

* Refer to KO

An allusion is a reference to a significant historical, literary, cultural, or political figure or idea.

Directions: Read the opening paragraphs of the novel. Then, read the explanation of each allusion, and read the opening one more time. (Note: these allusions would have been instantly familiar to Lewis's original readers in 1955). *In the opening paragraphs, we read many unfamiliar words/references. Now, let's reread and build our knowledge*

The Magician's Nephew - p. 3

This is a story about something that happened long ago when your grandfather was a child. It is a very important story because it shows how all the comings and goings between our own world and the land of Narnia first began.

In those days, Mr. Sherlock Holmes was still living in Baker Street and the Bastables were looking for treasure in the Lewisham Road. In those days, if you were a boy you had to wear a stiff Eton collar every day, and schools were usually nastier than now. But meals were nicer; and as for sweets, I won't even tell you how cheap and good they were, because it would only make your mouth water in vain. And in those days there lived in London a girl called Polly Plummer.

Notes

Sherlock Holmes is a fictional detective created by British author Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1887. In the stories, Holmes lives at the address of 221B Baker Street, London, where many of the tales begin. **Ask who has heard of Sherlock Holmes*



The Bastables were a fictional family of six children from the novel *The Story of the Treasure Seekers* by Edith Nesbit published in 1899. In the book, they lived on Lewisham Road.

An Eton collar is a broad, stiff white shirt collar worn outside the coat collar. Most British boys had to wear an Eton collar to school in the late 19th and early 20th century (despite how uncomfortable it was).



Most middle class or wealthy boys in Britain would be sent away to live at boarding schools. Bullying was common and teachers would physically discipline students.

4. Turn and Task: Consider the allusions above. Which refer to real or historical situations? Which refer to fictional (made up) characters or situations? What might this tell us about the novel's genre? Challenge: How is your experience of reading these paragraphs different after building your background knowledge?

① Sherlock Holmes / *made up*
Bastables fictional
Eton collar /
boarding schools real

Notes

② Real / Fictional blending together = Fantasy ("comings and goings btw our own world and the land of Narnia")

5. Annotate the pronouns the narrator uses. Where do you see words like "you," "yours," "she," or "I"? What strikes you about the narrator in this opening?

Pronouns

on excerpt

who is telling the story

"your grandfather"

"our own world"

"I won't even tell you"

BPPQ: model annotations - what is unusual about this?

silent solo - 3 min

Notes

narrator speaking directly to us (is the narrator a character?)

6. What is the narrator describing in this opening? What do we learn from this opening that will prepare us to read the rest of the novel?

- narrator describes setting of the novel (time + place)
- gives clues this is fantasy
- speaks directly to the reader

Additional Insights

Revision Prompt: Begin w/ "In this opening..." after discussion, show call it times

In this opening, the narrator describes the setting, hints at the fantasy genre, and begins speaking directly to readers.

BPPQ during discussion

- Narrator describes "those days" - why? (when story takes place)
- What do we know about the book after reading p. 3? (genre = fantasy set in London in "those days")
- What should we expect from this narrator? (addresses readers, has a point of view)

* We've started to notice some interesting things about this novel's narrator. To understand what makes this narrator unique, we're going to read this text on narrative POV. 15 min

Narrative Point of View

RA The **narrator** is the one who tells the story of a novel. If the narrator is character **participating** in the story's action, the narrative is said to be in the **first person**. A first-person narrator would use pronouns like "I" and "me" while telling the story about his or her own experiences. **FASE** taking in/ part playing a role

#1 For example, *Bud, Not Buddy* is written in first person. Read the opening lines below:

Here we go again. We were all standing in line waiting for breakfast when one of the caseworkers came in and tap-tap-tapped down the line...She stopped at me and said, "Are you Buddy Caldwell?" * Bud tells the story

RA A story told by a narrator who is not a character in the story is a **third-person narrative**. A third person narrative can be **limited** (meaning the narrator only tells the reader the thoughts and feelings of one character) or **omniscient**, a narrator that sees and knows everything about the world related in the story and what all characters feel and think. **FASE**

#2 *Number the Stars* is a novel written in third person. Note the difference in these opening lines:

"I'll race you to the corner, Ellen!" Annemarie adjusted the thick leather pack on her back so that her schoolbooks balanced evenly. "Ready?" She looked at her best friend. * narrator tells about Annemarie express opinions

RA One form of an omniscient narrator is an **intrusive narrator**. Sometimes an omniscient narrator will interrupt the story to "speak to" readers directly, addressing them as "you," and providing background **commentary**, or judgement. This **intrusive narrator** often expresses their own ideas about what is taking place in the narrative and can sometimes **evaluate** the action and characters of the story or give a view about the world in general. Even though a third person narrator is not a character in the story, an especially intrusive narrator can begin to blur that line. This type of narration can help establish a special relationship with the reader. When the narrator jumps in, it gives readers the feeling they are being told a story rather than just reading it on their own. This type of narration was very common in novels written in the 19th century. share own perspective

EM What is an intrusive narrator? Contrast w/ 1st person 3rd person

7. **Turn and Task:** What narrative point of view has C.S. Lewis used in *The Magician's Nephew*? How do you know? Annotate any evidence from the opening paragraphs that supports your response.
- ① Is this novel told in 1st or 3rd person? Is Polly telling it? Is Digory? → 3rd person narrator, sees/knows all, speaks to reader
- ② Does the narrator seem to be omniscient? **Yes - knows thoughts/feelings of all**
- ③ Is the narration intrusive? **Yes - speaks to readers**

8. Consider this line from the novel's opening. Pay particular attention to the bolded words.

~~Over the~~ ~~years~~ ~~ago~~ ~~when~~ ~~your~~ ~~grandfather~~ was a child.

This is a story about something that happened long ago when **your grandfather** was a child.

What do you notice about the narration? Why might Lewis have chosen to begin the novel this way?

The first sentence includes intrusive narration. This makes us feel connected to the story and shows it is set in the past.

* if time silent solo

FASE

15 min

Pages 6-9: On Your Own

Annotation Task: As you continue to read, continue to note any moments of intrusive narration (where the narrator addresses you directly)

- model "you might say" p. 7
- Show call "just as you would have been" if students annotate

Word	Meaning
fishy	suspicious/strange
coiner	someone who makes counterfeit (fake) money
cistern	water tank
jolly	very
feeble	weak

9. Contrast Polly and Digory's views on Uncle Andrew. Why they might they have such different perspectives? Annotate evidence from the chapter to support your thinking.

T+T What is Polly's perspective on Uncle Andrew?
curious, interested, thinks he's interesting/exciting
(p. 6 "cheerful subjects, listing exciting/imaginary reasons he may be in the study, p. 7 "how exciting")

How is Digory's perspective different? why?
thinks Uncle A. is frightening/suspicious
makes him anxious ("you wouldn't like it if you had to sleep there")
*has to interact w/ Uncle A more

Name: _____

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Exit Ticket

10 min

silent solo

1. Circle the one word from each of the columns below that most accurately describes the narrative style of the novel.

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
First person	Limited	Intrusive
Third person	Omniscient	Non-intrusive

2. Reread this moment from page 9:

*"I suppose we ought to have a look at it then," said Digory. He was a good deal more excited **than you'd have thought** from the way he spoke. For of course **he was thinking, just as you would have been**, of all the reasons why the house might have been empty so long.*

How do the phrases in bold demonstrate the narrative style you selected in Question 1?

These phrases are ~~third person~~ intrusive narration because the narrator uses the word "you" to talk to the reader. It's omniscient because the narrator knows what Digory is thinking/feeling (but not told by Digory himself)