

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY for

# *A Wrinkle in Time*

Madeleine L'Engle

New York, NY: Bantam Doubleday Dell Books for  
Young Readers: 1962

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

- ❖ "Madeleine L'Engle." In *Contemporary Authors* Vol. 21., Joan E. Marecki  
A short article with biographical information about the author, and interesting facts about her writing.
- ❖ "Madeleine L'Engle." In *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Vol. 52., Marygail G. Parker  
A short article with biographical information about the author, and interesting facts about her writing.
- ❖ *Presenting Madeleine L'Engle*, Donald R. Hettinga  
A beautiful book about Madeleine L'Engle, her writing habits and style, her books and her achievements.
- ❖ *Madeleine L'Engle Herself: Reflections on a Writing Life*, Madeleine L'Engle and Carole F. Chase  
*Madeleine L'Engle {Herself}* comprises hundreds of L'Engle's reflections on writing, most shorter than a page and many illustrating her equal devotions to writing and prayer. L'Engle believes in collaborating with the subconscious mind. She believes that what you need for a work will come to you. She believes not in writing for children, but in retaining a childlike mind. And she believes it is her job to serve her work (though she claims frequently that she has "never served a work as it ought to be served"). She listens to the book she is writing, L'Engle says, just as she tries to listen in prayer. "If the book tells me to do something completely unexpected, I heed it; the book is usually right." But don't think this means that the work will write itself, and don't wait around to be inspired.



## UTOPIAN/DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE

- ❖ *Utopia*, Sir Thomas More  
As an emissary for King Henry VIII, More toured Antwerp on a diplomatic mission, and while there, he meets a young ambassador by the name of Raphael. More goes on to detail his discussion with Raphael, who details his conception of Utopia. *Utopia* is primarily a social criticism of England, but it also depicts the ideals of a Utopian society: that it is uniform, sharing language, customs, institutions and laws, every citizen works six hours out of the twenty-four, etc. A familiarity with this book would be helpful in comparing the society of Camazotz to a Utopian society.
- ❖ *The Giver*, Lois Lowry  
In a world with no poverty, no crime, no sickness and no unemployment, and where every family is happy, 12-year-old Jonas is chosen to be the community's Receiver of Memories. Under the tutelage of the Elders and an old man known as the Giver, he discovers the disturbing truth about his utopian world and struggles against the weight of its hypocrisy. With echoes of *Brave New World* in this 1994 Newbery Medal winner, Lowry examines the idea that people might freely choose to give up their humanity in order to create a more stable society. Gradually Jonas learns just how costly this ordered and pain-free society can be, and boldly decides he cannot pay the price. \*

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\* Taken from Editorial Reviews on [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com)

❖ *Anthem*, Ayn Rand.

Ayn Rand's *Anthem* is a short dystopic novel about a man who escapes a society from which all individuality has been squeezed. Its allegory is crudely transparent, and the ideas have lost their political urgency. (The book was published in 1938, a decade before Orwell's 1984.) But *Anthem* provides a good introduction to Rand's philosophy of "objectivism," which is built on individuality, freedom, and reason.\*

## **BEYOND A WRINKLE IN TIME: COMPANION BOOKS AND RESOURCES**

❖ *The Phantom Tollbooth*, Norton Juster.

A fanciful book filled with puns and humorous allusions about a small boy who finds himself on an extraordinary journey after opening his mysterious birthday present. Along the way, he picks up a few strange companions in their search for the princesses, Rhyme and Reason. He returns home, a much better and kinder little boy. His journey is a more basic outline and would be a great introduction to *A Wrinkle in Time*.

❖ *Astronomy for Dummies*

If you love the sky but wonder how to make sense of it all, *Astronomy For Dummies* is your ticket to cosmic knowledge. From asteroids to black holes to red giants to white dwarfs, this easy-to-understand guide takes you on a grand tour of the universe -- and shows you how to get the most out of stargazing, planetarium visits, and other cool astronomical activities.

Complete with star maps and color photos, *Astronomy For Dummies* helps you : identify planets and stars, explore our solar system and the Milky Way, and understand the Big Bang, quarks, squarks and more.\*

❖ *A Guide for Using A Wrinkle in Time in the Classroom*, John and Patty Carratello

This resource is directly related to its literature equivalent and filled with a variety of cross-curricular lessons to do before, during, and after reading the book. This reproducible book includes sample plans, author information, vocabulary building ideas, cross-curriculum activities, sectional activities and quizzes, unit tests, and ideas for culminating and extending the novel. [Taken from Amazon.com]

❖ *Literature Circle Guide: A Wrinkle in Time*, Tara McCarthy

This one-of-a-kind guide to running literature circles, based on Madeline L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*, shows teachers how to organize small discussion groups that work! Includes stimulating questions and writing prompts that motivate students to think and respond thoughtfully. As students dive into lively discussions, they learn to identify themes, analyze vocabulary, recognize the author's craft, and respond meaningfully to the text (all of which meet state and national language arts standards.) \*

❖ *A Wrinkle in Time Study Guide*, Teri Shagoury

Easy-to-use, reproducible lessons on literary terms, comprehension and analysis, critical thinking, related scriptural principles, vocabulary, activities, plus a complete answer key.\*

## **OTHER WORKS BY THE AUTHOR**

❖ *A Circle of Quiet*, Madeleine L'Engle

*A Circle of Quiet*, published in 1972, is my favorite of all of Madeleine L'Engle's books, and it is a hard choice among such riches. More than any of her other books, it focuses on the process of writing, and the power of the written word. And yet there is so much more to this indescribably rich journal. At almost any page, there is an opportunity for reflection. L'Engle's theology and cosmology weave throughout the entries, linking astrophysics and mythology, Einstein and Bach. Stepping into this circle of quiet sends the mind flying.\*

- ❖ *Swiftly Tilting Planet*, Madeleine L'Engle  
Fifteen-year-old Charles Wallace Murry, whom readers first met in *A Wrinkle in Time*, has a little task he must accomplish. In 24 hours, a mad dictator will destroy the universe by declaring nuclear war--unless Charles Wallace can go back in time to change one of the many Might-Have-Beens in history. In an intricately layered and suspenseful journey through time, this extraordinary young man psychically enters four different people from other eras. As he perceives through their eyes "what might have been," he begins to comprehend the cosmic significance and consequences of every living creature's actions. As he witnesses first-hand the transformation of civilization from peaceful to warring times, his very existence is threatened, but the alternative is far worse. \*
- ❖ *A Wind in the Door*, Madeleine L'Engle  
There are dragons in the twins' vegetable garden," announces six-year-old Charles Wallace Murry in the opening sentence of *The Wind in the Door*. His older sister, Meg, doubts it. She figures he's seen *something* strange, but dragons--a "dollop of dragons," a "drove of dragons," even a "drive of dragons"--seem highly unlikely. As it turns out, Charles Wallace is right about the dragons--though the sea of eyes (merry eyes, wise eyes, ferocious eyes, kitten eyes, dragon eyes, opening and closing) and wings (in constant motion) is actually a benevolent cherubim (of a singularly plural sort) named Proginoskes who has come to help save Charles Wallace from a serious illness. In her usual masterful way, Madeleine L'Engle jumps seamlessly from a child's world of liverwurst and cream cheese sandwiches to deeply sinister, cosmic battles between good and evil. Children will revel in the delectably chilling details--including hideous scenes in which a school principal named Mr. Jenkins is impersonated by the Echthroi (the evil forces that tear skies, snuff out light, and darken planets). When it becomes clear that the Echthroi are putting Charles Wallace in danger, the only logical course of action is for Meg and her dear friend Calvin O'Keefe to become small enough to go inside Charles Wallace's body--into one of his mitochondria--to see what's going wrong with his farandolae. In an illuminating flash on the interconnectedness of all things and the relativity of size, we realize that the tiniest problem can have mammoth, even intergalactic ramifications. Can this intrepid group voyage through time and space and muster all their strength of character to save Charles Wallace? It's an exhilarating, enlightening, suspenseful journey that no child should miss.

## INTERNET SITES

- ❖ [http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Lincoln\\_HS/Burleson/Lessons/Wrinkle/](http://www.lausd.k12.ca.us/Lincoln_HS/Burleson/Lessons/Wrinkle/)  
This is undoubtedly the best internet resource for teaching this book. This website includes resources for the teacher, a final project for students, interactive activities for students, scientific background and explanations, and information about every historical figure mentioned in the book.
- ❖ <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ts/feature/6238/002-4961880-9199251>  
Entitled, "A New Wrinkle: A Conversation with Madeleine L'Engle," Karin Snelson from Amazon.com interviews L'Engle from her Connecticut cottage. She speaks about how thousands of people, young and old, have said that Madeleine L'Engle's 1963 Newbery Medal-winning novel changed their lives. In *A Wrinkle in Time*, L'Engle was fearless enough to challenge her young readers to consider time travel, tesseract, battles between good and evil, and the very meaning of life. As a result, the book was rejected by every publisher L'Engle can think of. In 1998--the 35th anniversary of her Newbery Medal--she was awarded the Margaret A. Edwards Award for her lifetime contribution to teen literature. Today, she works as the writer in residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and tours the seven continents giving lectures and conducting writing workshops. \*
- ❖ <http://www.mindspring.com/~jlyoung/lengle.htm#links>

A great resource for educators, this link contains a list of all other works by L'Engle, as well as links to other websites, and brief summaries of L'Engle's books.

- ❖ <http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/lengle/lenglets.html>

This is also a great site especially for the educator; it is a CyberGuide to *A Wrinkle in Time*, and is primarily a lesson plan for the novel with a complete description of materials, activities, web sites, and assignment ideas. The assignments include a research report, a comparison/contrast paper, and a database created by the students.

- ❖ <http://pw1.netcom.com/~hjsmith/WireFrame4/tesseract.html>

Shows what a model of a tesseract looks like. The website is interactive, and allows students to manipulate the image of the model.

- ❖ <http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/wrinkle/>

An extensive summary and commentary on the novel itself; great as a refresher, and also has interesting study questions and analyses of symbolism, foreshadowing, and character synopses.