

A Wrinkle in Time

Madeleine L'Engle

Characters:

Margaret Murry (Meg)- The oldest in the family. A sensitive, unhappy girl with braces, glasses and mouse-brown hair. She hates being an oddball and being questioned about her absent father. She has a difficult time at school.

Sandy and Dennys -Meg and Charles Wallace's ten-year-old twin brothers. They have no problems, are neither great nor bad students, are strong and fast runners and good at games. They feel that it is their duty to protect the family.

Charles Wallace - The youngest child in the Murry family. Children outside the family call him the "dumb baby brother". He is actually extremely intelligent and able to read people's minds.

Fortinbras - The Murry family's big black dog. Meg's father had decided he was part Llewellyn setter and part greyhound.

Mrs. Murry - Meg, Sandy, Dennys and Charles Wallace's mother. She is a scientist, as well as a beauty with flaming red hair, creamy skin, and violet eyes with long dark lashes.

Mr. Murry - A physicist with several Ph.D's . He disappeared while on a secret and dangerous government mission.

Mrs. Buncombe - The Constable's wife, who has twelve sheets stolen from her.

Miss Porter - Meg's teacher

Mr. Jenkins - Meg's school principal

Calvin O'Keefe - A tall skinny fourteen-year-old boy with orange hair, freckles, and oddly bright blue eyes. When he gets a compulsion, he always does what it tells him.

Mrs. Whatsit - Lives with Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which in the haunted house in the woods. At 2,379,152, 497 years, 8 months, and 3 days, she is the youngest of the

three. She gets blown off course on a stormy night and comes to the Murry's house to rest. She wears several scarves of assorted colors around her head, covered by a man's felt hat. She has a shocking pink stole knotted about a rough overcoat and black rubber boots. Her voice sounds like an unoiled door hinge. She has been chosen for the mission because she is good at verbalizing and materializing. She metamorphoses into a beautiful winged creature to carry Meg, Calvin and Charles Wallace to see the dark Thing that their father is fighting.

Mrs. Who- A plump little woman who wears enormous spectacles. She speaks in quotes because she has difficulty verbalizing. She is a "paltry few billion" years old.

Mrs. Which- Has a difficult time materializing - appears at first as a shimmer, then as a figure in a black robe and a black peaked hat, beady eyes, a beaked nose and long gray hair, clutching a broomstick.

The Happy Medium - Lives in a cave on a planet in Orion's belt. She wears a turban of pale mauve silk and a long, flowing, purple satin gown. In her crystal ball, she shows the children the Dark Thing hovering over the planet Earth.

The Man With Red Eyes - The Prime Coordinator. The children encounter him in the CENTRAL Central Intelligence Building on Camazotz. He subjects Charles Wallace to IT's control.

IT - A disembodied, oversized, pulsating brain that controls everyone on Camazotz.

Aunt Beast - A tall, gray, furry, faceless, tentacled creature on the planet Ixchel that counteracts the effects of the Black Thing on Meg and helps her to feel better.

Questions:

Where does this story take place? (In and near the Murry family's home on Earth and the planets Uriel, Camazotz, and Ixchel).

Where do the Murry's live? (four miles outside the village, near a pine woods.)

Who are the members of the Murry family? (Meg, the twins-Sandy and Dennys, Charles Wallace, Mrs. Murry, and Mr. Murry.)

Where is Mr. Murry? (He has disappeared while on a dangerous, classified government mission and is imprisoned on Camazotz)

Who are the Murry's pets? (Fortinbras - a big black dog and a gray fluffy kitten)

How did Meg get a bruise under her eye? (from fighting with the Henderson boy after he made a comment about Meg's "dumb baby brother".)

How old were Sandy and Dennys? (ten)

Where was Meg's bedroom? (the attic)

How did Charles Wallace begin to speak? (Suddenly and in full sentences)

What was Charles Wallace doing in the kitchen on the dark and stormy night?
(Heating up some milk, because he thought that Meg and her mother would like some)

Who dropped by the Murry's house on the stormy night? (Mrs. Whatsit).

How did Mrs. Whatsit know it was Charles Wallace's house? (by the smell)

What did Mrs. Murry help Mrs. Whatsit do? (take off her boots)

What did Mrs. Whatsit say that caused Mrs. Murry to turn white with shock?
("there is such a thing as a tesseract")

What is a tesseract? (The fifth dimension. It allows the characters to travel through time and space. - a "wrinkle in time")

Who lived in the haunted house in the woods? (Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which)

Why did Meg become angry with Mr. Jenkins? (he questioned her about her father)

Who did Charles Wallace and Meg meet on their way to the haunted house?
(Calvin O'Keefe)

Why did Calvin go there? (because he felt a compulsion)

Why did Mrs. Who say she and her colleagues had taken Mrs. Buncombe's sheets?
(in case they needed ghosts)

What made Meg begin to feel happy on the "most impossible" and "most confusing afternoon" of her life? (because she had met Calvin)

What did Mrs. Murry make for dinner? (stew)

What subject was Meg best at? (math)

Where had the Murry's lived before they moved to their current house? (New Mexico and Florida)

What did Calvin say to make Meg blush? (that she had "dream-boat" eyes and that he didn't want anybody else to see what gorgeous eyes she had.)

Where did Charles Wallace tell Meg and Calvin they were going?(to find father)

Where did they go first? (Uriel, the third planet of the star Malak in the spiral nebula Messier 101)

How did they travel? (They tesserated)

How did Mrs. Whatsit change while they were on Uriel? (She metamorphosed into a beautiful, white, winged creature.)

Where on Uriel did Mrs. Whatsit take the children and why? (She flew them up to the peak of the highest mountain, in order to show them the Black Thing.)

Why did Mrs. Whatsit pick flowers for the children? (so that they could breathe oxygen from them once the atmosphere on the mountaintop got too thin)

What mistake did Mrs. Which make when they tesserated from Uriel? (She almost landed them on a two-dimensional planet)

Where did they materialized after they left Uriel?(On a planet in Orion's belt)

Why did they go there? (To visit the Happy Medium and see in her crystal ball how the Black Thing was hovering over Earth)

When did Mrs. Whatsit say Meg would return home? (about five minutes before she left)

What is the Dark Thing? (evil - the powers of darkness)

Who on Earth has fought the dark thing? (Jesus and all of the great artists and scientists)

What was Mrs. Whatsit before she joined the mission? (A star that gave up its life in battle with the Dark Thing)

How did Calvin's mother appear in the Happy Medium's crystal ball? (Unkempt, toothless and whacking and screaming at her children)

How did Mrs. Murry appear in the Happy Medium's crystal ball? (Sitting on a stool in her lab, looking unhappy as she wrote her nightly letter to her husband)

Where did the children go after they left the Happy Medium's planet?(Camazotz)

What is Camazotz?(A planet that has given in to the Dark Thing - all of the people on Camazotz are controlled by IT)

What gifts did Mrs. Whatsit bestow on each of the children before she left them on Camazotz? (Calvin-she strengthened his ability to communicate; Meg -her faults; and Charles Wallace - the resilience of his childhood)

What hint did Mrs. Who give Calvin? (a quote from *The Tempest* about imprisonment in a "cloven pine")

What advice did Mrs. Who give to Charles Wallace? (to remember that he does not know everything)

What did Mrs. Who give to Meg? (Her glasses - only to be used as a last resort)

What command did Mrs. Which give the children? (to always stay together)

For whom did Mrs. Whatsit say that Camazotz was to be the most dangerous?
(Charles Wallace)

What warning did Mrs. Whatsit give to Charles Wallace? ("beware of pride and arrogance")

What did the town look like on Camazotz? (All of the houses, paths and flowers were identical)

What was strange about the children playing on Camazotz? (They were all skipping and bouncing balls to the same rhythm)

What happened when the children rang the doorbell of the boy who had dropped the ball in the street? (His mother acted scared and denied that he had dropped it)

What sort of city were the children visiting on Camazotz? (the capital)

Why does IT make IT's home in the capital city? (because it is where the CENTRAL Central Intelligence is located.)

What did the grownups on the street do when the children walked past?
(ignored them)

What sort of feeling did Calvin have about the CENTRAL Central Intelligence building? (That they would be in terrible danger if they went in.)

What is the job of the first man the children meet in the CENTRAL Central Intelligence Building? (He "runs a number-one spelling machine on the second grade level")

What does the spelling machine operator do to the children? (He reports them)

Where do the children find themselves after they are reported? (In a large, long room lined with machines)

What did the children encounter at the end of the long room in the CENTRAL Central Intelligence building? (The man with red eyes)

How did the man with the red eyes try to brainwash the children? (By saying the multiplication tables)

What happened when Charles Wallace stared into the red eyes? (His pupils became smaller and smaller, until his eyes were nothing but opaque blue.)

How did Meg get Charles' eyes back to normal the first time? (By tackling him and making him hit his head)

Why did the food the children were given taste like a turkey dinner to Calvin and Meg, but like sand to Charles? (because Charles was able to completely shut his mind to the man with red eyes, while the other two could not.)

What did the red-eyed man promise the children if they gave in? (freedom from all responsibility and utter rest and peace)

Why did Charles Wallace decide he had to find out what the red-eyed man really was? (in order to accomplish what Mrs. Which sent them to do)

Who did the red-eyed man tell the children he was? (The Prime Coordinator)

What happens to people with colds on Camazotz? (They are put to sleep)

How does Charles make the wall open? (by rearranging the atoms)

What did IT sometimes call Itself? (the Happiest Sadist)

Where was Meg and Charles' father being held? (inside a large, transparent column)

How did Meg get inside the column that was imprisoning her father? (by putting on Mrs. Who's spectacles.)

What did Meg see inside the column when she took Mrs. Who's spectacles off? (complete darkness)

How were Meg and her father both able to get out of the column? (Meg's father wore Mrs. Who's spectacles and had Meg cling to his neck while he carried her out)

What did the building that housed IT look like? (domelike, with walls that glowed violet and a roof that pulsed with light)

What could Meg feel inside the domed building? (a rhythmical pulsing)

What was IT? (an oversized, pulsing, disembodied brain)

What did Meg do to save herself from the power of IT? (She tried to breathe in her own rhythm and recited the Declaration of Independence and square roots)

What did Meg's father do when Meg was no longer able to hold out against IT? (He grabbed her wrist and tessered)

What happened to Meg after tessering with her father? (She had a difficult time recovering)

What explanation did Mr. Murry give for having gone to Camazotz in the first place?(He had been trying to tesser to Mars)

What was time like on Camazotz? (inverted, turned in on itself)

What were the three figures that approached Calvin, Meg, and her father? (Tall, gray, faceless creatures with four arms and waving tentacles.)

What was the name of the creature that helped Meg recover from tessering? (Aunt Beast)

What did the three creatures call their planet? (Ixchel)

How did Meg and Calvin summon the three Mrs. W's? (By describing them to Aunt Beast)

Who decided to go back to Camazotz to rescue Charles? (Meg)

How did Meg get back to Camazotz? (Mrs. Which tesserred her there)

What gifts did Meg receive the second time she left for Camazotz? (Mrs. Whatsit told Meg that she would have her love always; Mrs. Who told her a quote

about the weak things confounding the mighty things, and Mrs. Which told Meg that she has something that IT has not)

What did Meg have that IT did not? (Love)

How did Meg finally free Charles Wallace from IT's control? (by telling him how much she loved him)

Where did Meg and Charles Wallace end up once Meg saved him? (Back on Earth - in the twins' vegetable garden)

What time was it when Meg and Charles returned home? (bedtime)

Who ran out of the house through the screen door to join the Murry family reunion? (Fortinbras)

What happened to Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which before they could say goodbye? (There was a gust of wind and they were gone)

In what book.....

Was a tramp supposed to have stolen twelve sheets from Mrs. Buncombe?

Does a boy named Calvin feel compelled to visit a haunted house?

Does a father vanish while on a secret and dangerous mission for the government?

Do the characters travel by tessering?

Do three children ride on the back of a beautiful, white, winged creature?

Does a girl stay alive by breathing from a flower?

Did three children gaze at the Earth through a crystal ball?

Did a woman write a letter to her missing husband every night?

Is Mr. Murry fighting the Dark Thing?

Do three children visit a planet called Camazotz?

Is a planet controlled by IT?

Is there a planet where people are unable to make their own decisions?

Is a little boy punished for dropping a ball?

Do the characters visit the CENTRAL Central Intelligence building?

Did a red-eyed man brainwash a young boy?

Was a scientist imprisoned in a transparent column?

Did a father call his daughter Megatron and Megaparsec?

Do Mrs. Whatsit, Mrs. Who, and Mrs. Which help two children find their missing father?

Do a father and daughter use a pair of glasses to go through a wall?

Does Aunt Beast take care of a girl?

Does a girl use love to save her little brother from an evil force?

Do a brother and sister return from outer space and land in a vegetable garden?