



Westminster Christian Academy

10th Grade Summer Reading

Literature of Western Civilization

Till We Have Faces by C.S. Lewis

Why are you reading this book?

- This is a story of redemption (the act of being saved from one's sin) of the main character, Orual. The first part of the book (Part 1) is before her redemption. Upon returning to school, you will read Part 2 and learn of Orual's redemption.
- Redemption is a theme that you will explore throughout the year in Literature of Western Civilization in literature, writing, and personal reflection.

What to read BEFORE school starts?

- Part I (chapters 1–21) by Tuesday, August 15
- **Helpful tip:** Many students feel it is easier to understand when they listen to the audio and follow along with the text. You can find this book on YouTube and Amazon/Audible.

How should you read this book?

- Annotate for:
 - Orual's flaws
 - Turning points in the story
 - Relationship development between major characters

How will you be assessed on what you understood from this book when you return?

- You will be asked to identify turning points (a point in the story when a character changes his/her way of living due to choices made or circumstances changing) in the story.
- There will be a TEST within the first week of school to ensure you understand the facts of the story. The test will include quote identification, multiple choice, short answer, and essay. You will review with your class and be given a study guide upon returning to school.
 - **How to prepare for the test:** Read the assigned book (it may be helpful to listen to the audio book while following along in the book). Annotate and highlight the assigned prompts (see below) from each chapter.
 - **Writing Assignments:** There will be two writing assignments associated with the summer novel. The first assignment will pertain only to Part 1 of the text, and the second assignment will involve both Part 1 and Part 2. (Part 2 will be read after school starts). The more annotations you can make as you read this summer, the more prepared you will be for supporting the arguments that you will be making in your writing assignments.

Important to know before reading the book: Symbolism

- Orual = you (man's questions, doubts, fears, hopes, and beliefs in relation to God)
- Psyche = a Christ figure
- Fox = logic (man's attempt to understand God and the world)
- Bardia = heart (unquestioning faith in God)

*** As you read, consider how each of these characters relates to what/whom they symbolize.

Background of the story:

Till We Have Faces is a wonderful retelling of the Greek myth of Cupid and Psyche. In this myth, Psyche is not allowed to see her husband, Cupid, at all. However, Psyche is coerced into stealing a look at her husband and in doing this, her world falls apart. C. S. Lewis takes a brilliant twist and tells the story from Psyche's older sister's point of view. The older sister's name is Orual. This story can be interpreted in a lot of different ways, but **C.S. Lewis intended for Christians to find answers of who God is and what our relationship to Him is as we read the story of the sisters' fall and redemption.**

Overall Summary:

Orual, the ugly Queen of Glome and our narrator, writes this book as a complaint about "the gods."

The story is set in the imaginary country of Glome, on the outskirts of the Hellenistic world and Greek culture, about 200 years before the birth of Christ.

After his wife's death, the King of Glome wants a male heir and quickly remarries, but his new wife dies during the birth of a baby girl, Psyche. This child is unbelievably beautiful. The ugly Orual, the King's daughter from his first marriage, loves the beautiful Psyche and devotedly acts as her mother, meanwhile ignoring her other sister, Redival. The people of Glome come to worship Psyche for her beauty and healing touch—instead of worshipping the local nature goddess, Ungit (their embodiment of Venus).

After a horrible plague, drought, and famine, the Priest of Ungit tells the king that relief will only come if Psyche is sacrificed to Ungit's son, the "brute." The King complies and sacrifices his daughter. Orual goes to bury Psyche's bones and finds Psyche alive and clothed in rags. Psyche invites Orual to her palace—invisible to Orual—and speaks of a husband she has never seen. Orual convinces Psyche to take a lamp in at night and look at her husband, the "brute."

Psyche looks on her husband and is sent into exile, since in any divine and mortal union the mortal can never look upon the god. Orual sees Psyche's husband in all his beauty and hears him tell her a special message.

From this point on, Orual starts wearing a veil to hide her face and feelings from others. The King dies and Orual becomes Queen of Glome—becoming more like a man and less like a woman. Years later she hears a story about Psyche, but it's all wrong! She decides to write her own story.

Note: You are NOT required to read Part 2 (the last four chapters of the entire book) this summer; we will read it together at the beginning of the school year. Just read Part I (chapters 1–21) by August 17.

Characters (in order of their relative importance)

1. ORUAL: the Narrator and the subject of the story, who brings her "complaint against the gods" and who learns, at the end, how selfish her love for Psyche (and others) has really been.
2. LYSIAS (THE FOX): captured Greek, a slave then a freeman in the court of Glome; mentor of Orual and her best friend.
3. BARDIA: captain of the troops of Glome; Orual's steadfast friend and servant.
4. TROM (KING OF GLOME): a bloated man ridden by coarse passions, sudden in anger but not without craftiness, with some remnants of a good heart; father of Orual, Istra, and Redival.
5. ISTRAL (PSYCHE): third daughter of the King of Glome; half-sister of Orual and Redival; the victim in the Great Sacrifice to the Shadowbrute; object of Orual's love; the "natural Christian."
6. REDIVAL: second daughter of the King of Glome.
7. ARNOM (NEW PRIEST): priest of the local goddess Ungit, after the death of the old Priest.
8. PRIEST OF UNGIT: in the time of troubles, who orders the Great Sacrifice.
9. ANSIT: wife of Bardia.
10. TRUNIA: prince of Phars, seeking to wrest the throne from his brother Argan.
11. ARGAN: prince of Phars, designated by his father to succeed him.
12. TARIN: brief love interest of Redival, later returns to Glome as emissary of the great king of Persia.
13. BATTAL: old nurse to Orual, Redival, and Istra; vulgar, shrewish, tattling.
14. GRAM: a subordinate officer to Bardia.
15. POOBI: young serving-girl to Orual.

Synopsis of Chapters for Part I¹

Chapter 1:

- Describes the childhood of Orual and Redival. Their hair is shorn when their mother dies.
- The Fox is put in charge of them.
- The King takes a second wife (after the death of his first wife), hoping for a son. Orual and Redival sing and attend their stepmother on the wedding night.
- ★ *Annotations: Look for references to the Fox's wisdom.*²

Chapter 2:

- The King is angry when the child is another girl (Psyche/Istra).
- There is a dispute between the King and the Priest of Ungit.
- The Fox becomes the King's scribe and counselor.
- Psyche, the unwanted girl, grows more and more beautiful and beloved by Orual and the Fox. Orual takes Psyche away from the wet-nurse to whom Batta had given her.
- ★ *Annotations: Mark any indications that Istra/Psyche is a remarkable child.*

Chapter 3:

- Redival grows angry. She is caught with Tarin, who is castrated.
- Redival becomes spiteful toward Psyche, mocking her as a "goddess."
- The people begin to respect Psyche, asking her to touch babies to make them beautiful.
- Redival threatens to tell the Priest of Ungit about this; Orual buys her off with a necklace. Rebellion and pestilence overtake the land.
- Psyche is sought after and, with the King's consent, goes among the people, touching the sick ones.
- Redival conspires against her with the Priest of Ungit.

Chapter 4:

- Drought, famine, and rebellion continue to destroy Glome.
- Psyche now is called the "Accursed" by the people for making herself into a goddess.
- The palace is virtually under siege by the drought and plague.
- ★ *Annotations: Look for behavior in Orual that suggests her temperament might be similar to her father's.*

Chapter 5:

- The Priest of Ungit comes to the palace and tells the King that the Great Sacrifice (someone must be killed for the plague to be cured of the Palace) to the Shadowbrute must be made.
- The King fears that he must be the sacrifice and vainly calls on Bardia (captain of the troops) to drive away the Priest's guards.
- The King threatens the Priest himself and is vastly relieved when he learns that the majority have been cast against Psyche (they believe Psyche is the one to be sacrificed), not himself. He pretends to grieve.

¹Adapted from http://www.whitworth.edu/Academic/Department/Philosophy/Courses/PHEL261_Baird/html/faces.htm

²Adapted from <http://www.westminsterknights.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/TillWeHaveFaces-ReadGuide.pdf>

Chapter 6:

- The King will not heed the attempts of Orual and the Fox to save Psyche.
- The King mocks Orual's offer to take Psyche's place.
- Redival shows false grief.
- Orual, through Bardia's help, arranges to visit Psyche, locked up alone, awaiting the day of the sacrifice.
- ★ *Annotations: Highlight passages that give insight into the character of the characters. Who are these people truly? Are they cold-hearted, self-interested, deeply sympathetic?*

Chapter 7:

- Orual comes to speak to Psyche in her cell.
- Psyche, unafraid, wonders about the nature of the gods.
- Orual, frantic with her grief, protests her love and chides Psyche for not reciprocating it.
- Psyche confesses the fascination – even attraction – that death has always had for her. She is eager for the moment: going to her fate seems like going home.

Chapter 8:

- Orual, bruised from her father's angry handling of her, becomes ill and delirious.
- Orual sees the procession depart with Psyche for the place of sacrifice on the mountain.
- Orual is very ill and unconscious, or with bad dreams, for many days, nursed by the Fox.
- Glome is restored (Psyche is sacrificed, causing Glome to be restored); the King is well-liked; the Great Sacrifice has solved all immediate problems.
- Orual resolves to go up the mountain to recover Psyche's remains.
- ★ *Annotations: Look for proof for or against the gods' existence.*

Chapter 9:

- Bardia seeks through kindness to distract Orual from her grief by giving her lessons in swordsmanship; she is a suitable pupil.
- Bardia agrees to go with her up the mountain. During the trip Orual feels a joyous mood trying to break through, but deliberately represses it to be faithful to her grief.
- They reach the tree of sacrifice (to which Psyche had been bound) and find no trace at all. Dismayed and uneasy, they search, and find a ruby that Psyche had worn to the sacrifice, some distance away.
- They find a secret valley, and in it, Psyche.

Chapter 10:

- Orual and Psyche, who is alive, well, and happy, have a conversation.
- Psyche recounts in detail the day of the sacrifice as she lived it.
 - Long after all had departed and left her bound to the tree, the West-wind came and carried her away to the palace of the god, whose bride she was to be.
 - Invisible servants attended her, and at night, in her sumptuous chamber, the god came to her.
- Orual is enraged and demands to see the palace.
- On a walk through the palace, Psyche is amazed, saying that they are at that moment standing on the main stairs. Orual sees nothing but the mountain meadow.
- ★ *Annotations: Look for more references to faces. Look for references to dreams or dreaming.*

Chapter 11:

- Orual and Psyche argue over the existence of Psyche's palace.
- Orual accuses Psyche of pretending, but knows it is not so.
- Psyche will implore her bridegroom, the god (West-Wind), to let Orual see the palace.

- Orual becomes jealous of the god, for Psyche now belongs to him, not to Orual.
- Psyche's first loyalty is clearly to her husband-god. Psyche herself, on the god's strict orders, has never seen him, only felt him as he comes to her at night. It begins to rain. Psyche says they are under a porch of the palace, but Orual sees the raindrops on her cheeks.
- Orual tries to force her to come home, but Psyche is too strong.
- Bardia will not come to help Orual.
- Psyche sends Orual away, but says she may come again soon.
- ★ *Annotations: Keep looking for more dreams/faces language.*

Chapter 12:

- Orual camps with Bardia on the ridge over the hidden valley. At night, in the storm and fog, she catches one fleeting glimpse of the huge marble palace the god prepared for Psyche, then doubts her own eyes, then doubts the doubt.
- On the journey home Orual asks Bardia his opinion, but he is noncommittal. He doubts that Psyche is mad/crazy or lying because he says the affairs of the gods are not for him to say.
- Orual thinks Psyche may be the bride of a monster, and resolves even to kill her, if necessary, to save her from such desecration.
- Orual will sacrifice even Psyche's obvious happiness.

Chapter 13:

- The Fox gives Orual a rational explanation of the whole thing (Psyche is with some vagabond on the mountain, who found her so crazed when she was tied to her tree that he could seduce her and make her believe anything. He says that Psyche is fantasizing.)
- The Fox and Orual resolve that Psyche must be brought away, but the Fox will have none of Orual's plan to kill Psyche, if necessary, to save her honor.
- Alone, Orual prays to the gods for a sign, and receives none.
- Bardia's and the Fox's two explanations seem mutually contradictory to her.
- Orual's internal conflict is between not meddling with Psyche's happiness and being stern by her possessive love, which eventually wins out.

Chapter 14:

- Since Bardia must guard the palace while the King is lion-hunting, Orual is accompanied on her second trip up the mountain by the taciturn Gram (an officer to Bardia).
- Orual finds Psyche and the dispute begins again.
- When Psyche will not obey Orual's command to return, Orual thrusts her dagger through her arm, warning that next time she will kill herself—and Psyche too.
- This threat becomes the blackmail by which she gets Psyche to agree to disobey her god and look at his face that very night by the light of the lamp.

Chapter 15:

- Camping on the ridge with Gram, Orual sees Psyche's lamp across the valley.
- Then, as the god awakes, the storm breaks loose, the palace crumbles, all nature rages.
- The god appears and speaks to Orual, telling of Psyche's unhappy fate now, and of Orual's own fate.
- Orual cannot find Psyche, only hear her go off weeping into exile.
- Orual sees all the gods as her enemies.
- ★ *Annotations: Note the descriptions Orual provides of her own love for Psyche. Mark carefully the new indictment Orual levels against the gods.*

Chapter 16:

- Orual returns home again, and the Fox chides her bitterly for what she did, even though she did not tell him of the self-wounding.
- Time passes. The King makes Orual help the Fox with secretarial duties. She becomes a good swordsman under Bardia's guidance.
- The King has a bad accident and falls into his last illness. At the same time the old Priest of Ungit is dying, and his place is taken by Arnom.
- Orual assumes the duties of Queen even before her comatose father dies. She has Bardia's loyalty, and drives a hard bargain with Arnom (priest of the goddess Ungit), securing also his.
- ★ *Annotations: Mark all instances of emotional struggle in Orual at the memory of Psyche. How does she deal with the loss? What things remind her of Psyche? What tactics does she use to bar them from her mind?*

Chapter 17:

- Trunia (Prince of Phars), at war with his brother Argan (Prince of Phars) for the throne of Phars, takes refuge in Glome.
- Orual makes Trunia prisoner and sends word to Argan that the matter should be decided by a single combat:
 - An unnamed fighter (Orual) will fight on behalf of Trunia's, and Argan will fight against the unnamed warrior.
 - If Trunia's champion wins, Trunia takes the throne of Phars and is Glome's friend; if Argan wins he may take back Trunia to do as he wishes, and so will not have cause to wage war against Glome.
- Bardia and the Fox are amazed that Orual should plan to be the champion herself. She is already thinking like a queen.
- ★ *Annotations: Mark Orual's plan and supporting reasons. When Orual talks about her alternate identity, include this in your "FACES" tracking.*

Chapter 18:

- Bardia has Orual kill a pig as a preparation for killing a man.
- Orual frees the Fox, who first thinks of returning to Greece, then decides to stay with Orual.
- Orual visits Trunia in his cell, and they arrange for him to marry Redival if all goes well in the single combat.
- The King dies.
- ★ *Annotations: Look for all references to the Queen/Orual distinction.*

Chapter 19:

- Orual kills Argan in clean single combat, and feasts the officers of the army from Phars.
- Orual's experiences loneliness when Bardia, saying that the day's work is over, begs leave to return to his wife and children.
- Orual, who loves both Bardia and Psyche, imagines herself married to Bardia and having Psyche for her daughter.
- Then Orual uses wine to banish sorrow.
- ★ *Annotations: Mark any Queen/Orual distinctions.*

Chapter 20:

- Many years pass with Orual a wise and valorous Queen of Glome. She avoids many foreign wars.
- She saves Bardia's life in an ambush, killing seven of the enemy.
- She never removes her veil, which she had first put on after the banishment of Psyche by her god.
- She hangs Batta and frees Poobi; she enables the Fox and Hellenizes (makes it Greek) her court somewhat.

- The Fox dies, and after his funeral Orual resolves to go on a long trip in foreign lands.
- All is in good order in Glome; Bardia and Arnom can run it.

Chapter 21:

- In Phars, Orual agrees with Trunia that his second son, Daaran, will be the King of Glome when Orual dies.
 - In Essur she comes upon a shrine, whose priest tells her that it is for a new goddess, called Istra (Psyche).
 - He then relates the story of the goddess, whom Orual realizes is actually Psyche, but the story is all mixed up and different in many details from the facts as Orual knew from personal acquaintance with them. It is the classic story of Psyche, as told in the *Metamorphoses* of Apuleius, but with local barbarian names replacing those of Psyche, Aphrodite, Eros, etc...
 - When Orual hears how garbled the story has become, she resolves to write her own, true account of it all (this is where the first Book that you are reading comes from).
 - Worst of all, for her, is the part that has her able to see Psyche's palace, and so believe in it, but wishing to destroy Psyche's happiness anyway, because she is jealous of her.
 - She, Orual, had been jealous of Psyche? – impossible! Thus she brings her book to its first close, bitter against gods, convinced that they are only noxious to man, and doubting that they themselves have the answers to any of her questions.
- ★ *Annotations: Note the parts of the story that are surprising to the Queen.*

STOP

Note: You are NOT required to read Part II (the last four chapters of the entire book) this summer; we will read it together at the beginning of the school year. Just read Part I (chapters 1-21) by August 17.

Priest of Ungit

Orders the Great Sacrifice

Arnom (New Priest)

Takes over when old priest die

