



'Year of the Sister'
Well-Read Mom Family Supplement
Well-Read Mom's Guide to Bringing the Great Books into Your Home

May-June: Sacrificial Love

Discuss along with *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky

One of the great dramatic dimensions of *Crime and Punishment* is how sacrifice unbalances--or rebalances--human dignity. Raskolnikov finds it unbearable that others would sacrifice themselves for him. He finds it intolerable, because it reminds him to live out and bear his own worth. As in *Crime and Punishment*, this month's selections demonstrate that no power but self-giving love can rebalance the scales of justice.

***The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis**

The four Pevensie children (Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy) are sent to the enormous country house of Professor Kirk to escape the danger of the London blitz. While hiding one day for a game Lucy discovers that a wardrobe is the doorway to another world, Narnia. When her siblings follow her into Narnia, they discover that they have long been expected. They have been expected to come and free the land from the control of the beautiful and ruthless White Witch.

Discussion Questions:

1. When the children go to Professor Kirk, worried about Lucy's lying, he tells them something that surprises them. He asks them to consider what might be the case if Lucy is *not* lying. Have you ever had a conversation that left you with a greater sense of wonder? With more questions and excitement?
2. Why do some of the talking animals serve the White Witch? Why does Edmund serve her for a time?
3. What quality do Peter, Susan, and Lucy share that make it natural for them to resist the White Witch?
4. "*Peter did not feel very brave; indeed, he felt he was going to be sick. But that made no difference to what he had to do.*" Have you ever experienced something like this? Do you admire Peter?
5. How does Aslan's death "fix" the problem of justice--that the life of the traitor (Edmund) is owed to the White Witch?
6. Why when Edmund is crowned is he titled "King Edmund the Just"?

More for older readers:

Hans Brinker or the Silver Skates by Mary Mapes Dodge

The Light Princess by George MacDonald

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

The Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls

The Trumpet of the Swan by E. B White



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For Younger Readers

***I Want That Love* by Tatsuya Miyanishi**

Tyrannosaurus boasts and rages that power is the most important thing in the world. When he suffers injury from a Masiakasaurus, he is cared for by some gentle triceratops. Because of their care, Tyrannosaurus begins to question the notion that power is the most important value. When another dinosaur attacks the group, Tyrannosaurus protects the young ones and sacrifices himself. We discover that love is more precious, more meaningful, than power.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you ever hide your love or sweetness behind toughness and roughness? Do you know of anyone who does?
2. It is when the Tyrannosaurus is old and wounded that he becomes soft enough to let himself be loved. Do we have to wait to be old, wounded, or sick before we let ourselves be loved?
3. How is love more powerful than power? Do you ever see your mother or father's "love-power"? When?
4. How does Tyrannosaurus change from the beginning of the book to the end? Do you like him better in the beginning or at the end? What gives Tyrannosaurus the power to give his life to protect the Triceratop children?

More for younger readers:

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery
A New Coat for Anna by Harriet Ziefert
God Bless the Gargoyles by Dav Pilkey
The Tale of Three Trees by Angela Ellwell Hunt
The Rag Coat by Lauren Mills



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More Books about Siblings

The Cottage at Bantry Bay series by Hilda Van Stockum

Happy Little Family by Rebecca Caudill

The Boxcar Children by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson

Five Children and It by E. Nesbit

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E. L. Konigsburg

The Girl Who Sailed the Stars by Oona Britt

How Tia Lola Came to Stay by Julia Alvarez

Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynn Jones

Meet the Austins and *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle

Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry

The Moffats by Elenor Estes

A Bear Called Paddington by Michael Bond

The Penderwicks, series by Jeanne Birdsall

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Patricia MacLachlan