

Fremont Great Books Book Club
Discussion Questions for “A Wrinkle in Time” by Madeleine L’Engle
September 21, 2024

1. Madeleine L’Engle had trouble finding a publisher for this book. No one knew who the book was for and didn’t know how to market it. L’Engle said, “It’s for people don’t people read book?” Who do you think the book is for? How would you categorize it?
2. What are your thoughts on L’Engle’s writing style? Were you at all surprised by the way in which science is depicted and discussed in the book? What do you make of “It was a dark and stormy night,” as the opening line of the book?
3. “A Wrinkle in Time” was written from 1950-1960 and published in 1962. What were some parallels of the global and domestic stage at the time that are reflected in the novel? Do you find any of these parallels relevant today?
4. Sight is a recurring theme in the novel. What do you think L’Engle is trying to say regarding vision/blindness literal and metaphorical? What did you make of the juxtaposition of Mr. Murray needing special glasses to see his children vs Aunt Beast and the species that do not have a sense of sight as we do?
5. “A Wrinkle in Time” is often found on banned books lists. Why do you think the book is banned?
6. A major theme of the novel good vs evil. Do you see this as a religious parable or social commentary? Did you find this message complex or oversimplified?
7. L’Engle references quite a few classic pieces of literature and the Bible, often through Mrs. Who, Mrs. Whatsit, and Mrs. Which. Do you think these three characters were inspired by Biblical or literary characters?
8. L’Engle also touches on feelings of alienation. Meg worries that her father has abandoned the family; Charles Wallace unsettles most people due to his odd personality and preternatural maturity. Fear of the “other” is seen through Meg and Calvin as they are initially terrified by the citizens controlled by IT on Camazotz. If the novel were written today, how do you think these feelings would be addressed in modern terminology?
9. Meg is a flawed person. Does her character feel well-developed in this story? Do you admire Meg? Why or why not?
10. What are your thoughts on Charles Wallace? Did your impression of him change from the beginning to the end of the novel?

LINKS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIFmulsjGME>

<https://youtu.be/LxhW3-vXDsk?si=8lQFPVJxjXPTt-fW>

<https://youtu.be/D0AjeITAcMk?si=Me-7ZNWkTIF1QdEf>