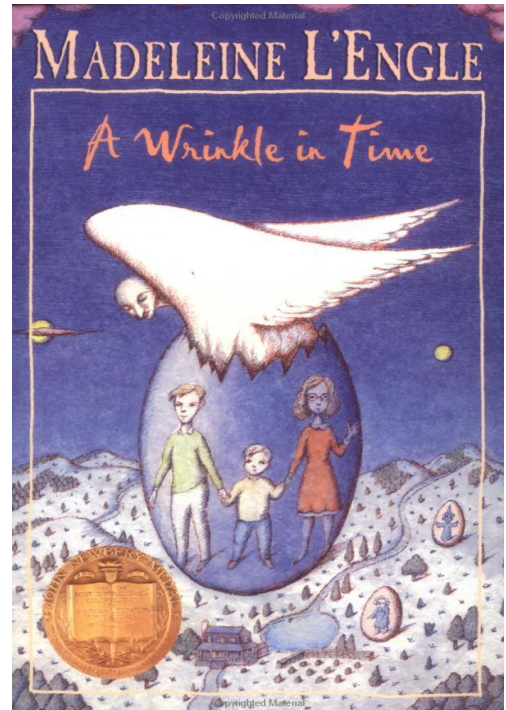


## ***Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle (Farrar, 1962)**

*This is the now classic story of how Meg Murry, a high-school-aged girl along with her younger brother, Charles Wallace, and her friend Calvin O'Keefe is transported on an adventure through time and space to rescue her father who is a prisoner on another planet. The mysterious Mrs. Whatsit appears at the Murry house on a dark and stormy evening, and although she looks like an eccentric tramp, she is actually a celestial creature with the ability to read Meg's thoughts. She startles Meg's mother by reassuring her of the existence of a tesseract--a sort of "wrinkle" in space and time. It is through this wrinkle that Meg and her companions will travel through the fifth dimension in search of Mr. Murry. Winner, the Newbery Medal 1963*



### **Discussion Questions**

1. When Meg called into the principal's office, he suggests that she forget her father. How does she react to this suggestion? What does this scene tell us about how Meg feels about her family?
2. Mrs. Wallace says Charles Wallace is different, he is "new..." His difference is in essence." (p. 44) What do you think she meant by this? What other things are unusual about Charles Wallace?
3. Meg and Charles Wallace meet Calvin O'Keefe by chance on their way to see Mrs. Whatsit. Calvin says: "Maybe we weren't meant to meet before this, I mean I knew who you were in school and everything, but I didn't know you." Why do you think it was meant to be that Meg and Charles should meet up with Calvin at this time?
4. When Mrs. Whatsit says that there is such a thing as a tesseract, Mrs. Murry goes pale – she knows about Tesseracts too. What is a tesseract? – (There is an explanation on pages 74-75) Do a wrinkle experiment with a piece of paper.
5. Who are the three strange ladies who say they will help the children find their father. Why does Mrs. Who speak in quotes? Why do the children go off so easily with Mrs. Who, Mrs. Whatsit, and Mrs. Which?
6. During their journey the children learn about the "Dark Thing." What do you think the "Dark Thing" really is? Who are some of the people fighting the "Dark Thing?" What do they have in common?
7. Why do the three Mrs. W's warn the children not to get separated? Why can't the three Mrs. W's stay on the planet Camazotz to help the children? Describe what life is like on Camazotz. When Charles Wallace is taken over by the evil forces he looks the same. Why does Meg know his heart and mind have been taken over?

8. Why does Charles Wallace want the glasses that Mrs. Whatsit gave Meg? What happens when she puts them on? What do you think “The It” is?
9. Why do you think father left Charles Wallace behind on Camazotz? Was he right to do this?
10. What do you think about the beasts on Ixchel? Why is the name “Aunt Beast” a good one for the alien creature that takes care of Meg?
11. Why is it Meg who must go back to rescue Charles Wallace? What does Meg have that “The It” doesn’t?
12. Who is the most courageous character in the story?

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