

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY / THE WORLD AROUND US · P4–P7

CS Lewis & Narnia — Belfast

P4–P7 Literacy & Local History

CS Lewis and Belfast

1 Born in Belfast (1898–1963)

Clive Staples Lewis was born in Strandtown, east Belfast. He lived in the city until he went to boarding school in England aged 9. His childhood Belfast home, Little Lea, shaped his imagination.

2 The Mourne Mountains

Lewis wrote that the Mourne Mountains in County Down inspired his vision of Narnia. 'I have seen landscapes which, under a particular light, made me feel that at any moment a giant might raise his head over the next ridge.'

3 The wardrobe

As a child Lewis had a wardrobe in his Belfast home that he and his brother Warren imagined was magical. This wardrobe inspired the most famous portal in children's literature.

4 The lamppost

In Belfast's Hollywood Arches, an old gaslight lamppost stood for many decades. Local legend says this is the lamppost Lucy finds at the edge of Narnia.

5 Creative writing prompt 1

Describe a wardrobe — but make every detail real and physical (the smell of the wood, the texture of coats, the feel of the floor). Then describe the moment something extraordinary begins to happen.



6

Creative writing prompt 2

Write the opening of a story in which an ordinary object in your school or home turns out to be a portal to another world. Where does it lead? What is the first thing your character notices?

