

## Opinion: What Have Other People Thought About *A Wrinkle in Time*?



### **An award-winner**

This Newbery Medal winner was published in 1962. More than ten million copies of this famous novel have been sold since then.

*A Wrinkle in Time* is beloved by both children and adults. The children's librarians of the American Librarian Association thought it was so good they named it a Notable Book for Children. Book reviewers also were impressed with L'Engle's work. A reviewer from the *Saturday Review* wrote that it "is original, different, exciting." Another reviewer, this one from *The New York Times Book Review*, described the novel in this way: "Imaginative readers should find it wholly absorbing—for in her highly accelerated spin through space, Miss L'Engle never loses sight of human needs and emotions."

In fact, so many people of all ages enjoyed the book *A Wrinkle in Time* that a television mini-series is being developed. No airdate has been decided so far, but keep an eye peeled for Meg, Charles Wallace, and Calvin to appear on the small screen soon.

## **Ban this book?**

Although *A Wrinkle in Time* is on many children's (and adults') favorite books lists, not everyone loves it. *A Wrinkle in Time* is on several "banned books" lists. This means that some people don't think the book should be read—by anyone—and they have challenged the book being included in their library. According to the American Library Association, "A challenge is an attempt to remove or restrict materials based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials."

Why does this book provoke such strong feelings? *A Wrinkle in Time* has been banned by various religious groups that feel the book undermines religious beliefs. Some critics claim that the book challenges their idea of God. (If you remember, L'Engle uses some biblical references in the novel.) Some people think it's too Christian, while others think it is not Christian enough.

Although Madeleine L'Engle is a Christian, she doesn't feel that any of her books have specific Christian messages. She doesn't want to limit her books to Christians readers. If her books have any message, says L'Engle, it's that "the universe is basically benign [harmless]."

## Glossary



**H**ere are some words that are used in *A Wrinkle in Time*. Knowing what these words mean will help you better understand the novel.

**apprehension** a fear or worry about something in the future

**authoritative** official; coming from someone who has the power to give orders

**belligerent** eager to fight; hostile

**bravado** an act or pretense of being brave

**compulsion** an irresistible desire to do something

**constraint** something that limits what you are able or allowed to do

**corporeal** substantial; having a physical or material body

**diastole** something that opens regularly, like a heart valve

**dilapidated** shabby and falling to pieces

**disembodied** seeming not to come from a person or thing

**dissolution** the act or process of disappearing or ending

**dwindle** to become smaller or less

**elliptic** roundabout; vague

**ephemeral** lasting a very short time

**extinguish** to put out (as in a fire); to put an end to

**inadvertently** not meaning to

**indentation** a depression or hollow in a surface

**indignation** anger aroused by someone or something unworthy, unjust, or mean

**ineffable** not able to be described in words

**inexorable** inflexible; not able to be persuaded

**malignant** dangerous because it tends to spread and eventually cause death

**materialize** to appear; to become real

**metamorphose** to change into a different form

**miasma** an atmosphere or vapor that hides things or spoils them

**omnipotent** having unlimited authority

**prodigious** amazing or wonderful; very big

**protoplasm** the jellylike living matter of most plant and animal cells

**radiance** a state or quality of being bright and shining

**resilience** the ability to recover from or adjust to change

**sadist** a person who likes being cruel

**sagely** wisely

**suspend** to hang or to stop temporarily

**swivet** extreme nervousness or worry

**systole** something that closes regularly, like a heart valve

**tangible** able to be understood by touch

**tesseract** in the fourth dimension, the equivalent of a cube

**tractable** obedient or easily influenced