



**CHESTERTON ACADEMY  
OF THE SACRED HEART**

***The Screwtape Letters*, by C. S. Lewis  
Junior Summer Reading Guide**

While C. S. Lewis's masterpiece, *The Screwtape Letters*, first published in 1942, does not qualify as Renaissance literature, it is a well-known and important book. It deals with the issues of sin, temptation, and resisting evil, all of which are crucial to understand as your spiritual lives mature.

It also deals with spiritual warfare and the existence of evil spirits who desire to remove us from our relationship with God, a topic that we will examine extensively as we address Dante's *Inferno*. Please note that most of these questions deal with an understanding of the text, and we will examine deeper, thought-provoking questions as we discuss this book in our first weeks of Literature 11 in August.

1. To whom are Wormwood, Screwtape, the Enemy, the patient, and Our Father referring?

Give a brief overview of the plot and players.

- Wormwood:
- Screwtape:
- The Enemy:
- The Patient:
- Our Father:

2. What are the modern-day weapons that confuse modern man? Name at least three. (Chapter 1)

3. What is meant by the "pressure of the ordinary"? (Chapter 1)

4. What is the "disappointment that occurs on the threshold of every human endeavor"? (Chapter 2)

5. What does Screwtape mean when he says that "the Enemy" leaves them "to do it on their own"? (Chapter 2)

6. Why is a person much harder to tempt when not relying on emotion? (Chapter 2)

7. Why does Screwtape suggest trying to keep the patient's mind off "elementary duties" and "the obvious"? (Chapter 3)
8. What is the difference between feeling virtuous and actually being virtuous (i.e., courageous, forgiving, charitable, etc.)? (Chapter 4)
9. What is "nakedness in prayer"? (Chapter 4)
10. What are some of the possible fruits of a war, against which Screwtape warns? (Chapter 5)
11. What is a "trough period" and why is this state of soul so critical? (Chapter 8)
12. Who is the inventor of all pleasure? (Chapter 9) By-the-way, for you readers of St. Augustine, if God created all things good, then how can love of anything be evil?
13. Of what value are the words puritanical, priggish, and intolerant to Wormwood and Screwtape? (Chapter 10)
14. What is flippancy? (Chapter 11)
15. What are the two different ways a person can lose himself? (Chapter 13)
16. What is real humility and what is false humility? (Chapter 14)
17. Is it best to live in the past, present, or future? Why? (Chapter 15)
18. What is the proper attitude to have in Church? (Chapter 16)
19. What is the problem with the way Screwtape describes how women ought to look? (Chapter 20)
20. What is the incorrect understanding of ownership? What is the correct understanding? (Chapter 21)
21. In the end, who are the only two real owners? (Chapter 21)
22. What is rhythm? Give an example. (Chapter 25)
23. What is novelty and what is the trouble with a continual desire for novelty? What does this desire produce? (Chapter 25)
24. How can the genuine beginnings of unselfishness in a relationship turn into a dangerous false unselfishness years later? (Chapter 26)
25. What ought one do with distraction in prayer? (Chapter 27)
26. What does it mean to be "taken out of himself"? (Chapter 28)
27. Why is it so difficult for humans to persevere? (Chapter 28)

28. Why can humans never feel quite at home in this world? (Chapter 28) (Chesterton may have said something about this topic, too, perhaps? Maybe?)

29. Why is an earthly calamity so often an occasion for courage? (Chapter 28)

30. What finally happens to Wormwood's patient? (Chapter 31)