

Brit. Lit.
Summer 2010

Till We Have Faces: Summer Reading Assignment

Till We Have Faces, by C.S. Lewis, is re-telling of the myth of Cupid and Psyche. In order to understand the novel better, it's important that you read C.S. Lewis' summary of the original myth. You can find it in the back of your book, or look it up online.

The major theme of this novel is love. According to C.S. Lewis, human love can become twisted, selfish, and ultimately harmful when we love something out of proportion to our love for God.

Before You Read:

Spend some time in reflection. What do you love most? This can be defined as, to what do you give the best part of your time, energy, money, and emotions?

1) Write a one-page journal entry describing what you love most and why you love it.

(By the way, I don't need to read this entry if you'd like to keep it private. When you turn it into me by the end of the summer, you just need to fold down the upper right-hand corner and I won't read it.)

After You Read

When you're finished reading the novel, choose ONE of the topics below and write a two-page response paper. Your paper must be typed, double spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman font, and must follow MLA format guidelines.

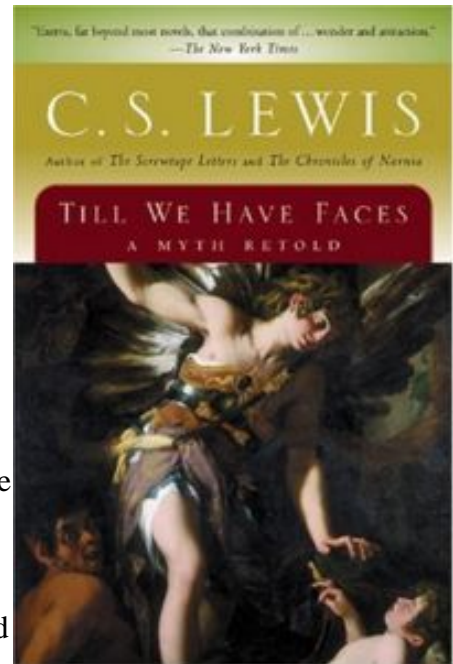
Topic One

Consider Orual's last words: "I know now, Lord, why you utter no answer. You are yourself the answer. Before your face questions die away. What other answer would suffice? Only words, words; to be led out to battle against other words. Long did I hate you, long did I fear you. I might --"

What has Orual learned about love? What might she say to God if she could finish her last sentence?

Topic Two

Did Orual really love Psyche, or was her love for Psyche selfish? Was she able to truly love another person? Why or why not?



Your journal entry and response paper are due on the first day of school.