

Arlington Catholic High School
English IV
SCREWTAPE LETTERS SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

BEFORE YOU READ....

Setting: The story takes place during World War II (1938 to 1945).

Point of View: The story is told through a series of letters from the perspective of the demon Screwtape. He is writing to his nephew, Wormwood, with advice on how to corrupt human beings.

Characters:

Screwtape – old, wise demon, the uncle of Wormwood

Wormwood – nephew of Screwtape and novice demon who is being trained by Screwtape to help in causing a young man to lose his soul

“Our Father Below” – Satan

“The Enemy” – God

The patient – the young man who is the object of Wormwood’s mission

The old lady – the patient’s mother

Glubose – the demon who is assigned to the “old lady”

Slumtrimpet – demon in charge of the patient’s “young woman”



ASSIGNMENT

After reading the novel The Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis, answer the following questions in a 6-8 sentence paragraph each. These paragraphs should be an example of your best work, be thoughtful, well organized, and in final draft form (typed, 12 font, double spaced and printed for your first day of class).

1. Pay attention to Lewis’s use of **irony** in the letters. Do you think it is an effective way to get readers thinking about the moral issues that the letters present?
2. Why does Lewis present his vision of Hell as a bureaucracy? Is it, in your judgment, a good metaphor? Why or why not?
3. Of all the letters, which one do you find the most interesting? Discuss the letter in detail, cite specific quotes, compare it to other letters, and connect it to your own life (feel free to use “I”).
4. Research a bit about the life of C.S. Lewis. What do you think drove him to write a book like this and what letters within the book may specifically speak to his own struggles in life?