

Where to Go from Here: A Suggested List of Essential Books about C. S. Lewis

If you'd like to know more about C. S. Lewis, you'll find a dizzying array of possibilities. To help make sense of it all, we suggest the following list of resources, arranged topically. First and foremost, Walter Hooper's masterful *C. S. Lewis: A Companion and Guide* will offer you the most comprehensive single-volume reference available, and without question offers the C. S. Lewis enthusiast the best place to start.

To augment Hooper's *Companion and Guide*, we suggest Douglas R. Gilbert and Clyde S. Kilby's *C. S. Lewis: Images of His World* for its pictures and personal accounts, Colin Duriez's *The C. S. Lewis Chronicles*, a book-length timeline of Lewis's life, and Jeffrey D. Schultz, and John G. West, Jr.'s *The C. S. Lewis Reader's Encyclopedia*, which contains hundreds of largely helpful (if sometimes uneven) entries on all aspects of Lewis's published writings. Janine Goffar's *C. S. Lewis Index* provides an almost-exhaustive Lewis concordance, offering invaluable aid to those who search for certain topics in his work or who hunt the sources of half-remembered quotations.

For biographies of Lewis's life, start with Alister McGrath's *C. S. Lewis: A Life*; you'll also want to try George Sayer's *Jack: A Life of C. S. Lewis* or Walter Hooper and Roger Lancelyn Green's authorized *C. S. Lewis: A Biography*. Diana Pavlac Glyer's *The Company they Keep: C. S. Lewis and J. R. R. Tolkien as Writers in Community* represents the finest available account of the Inklings, the writing group in which many of Lewis's books (and those of his close friend J. R. R. Tolkien) first found an audience.

Should you want to pursue Lewis's writings in depth, consider the following. Paul F. Ford's *Companion to Narnia* stands apart in both depth and breadth of coverage of the Chronicles of Narnia. David C. Downing's *Planets in Peril: A Critical Study of C. S. Lewis's Ransom Trilogy* will guide those interested in Lewis's science fiction, while Peter Schakel's *Reason and Imagination in C. S. Lewis* and Doris Myer's *Bareface* both take on Lewis's last and most hauntingly beautiful novel, *Till We Have Faces*. Thomas Howard's *C. S. Lewis: Man of Letters* looks at Lewis's fiction as a whole, while Don W. King's *C. S. Lewis, Poet: The Legacy of his Poetic Impulse* comprehensively explores Lewis's poetry.

For a theological background of Lewis's thought, we suggest you turn either to Clyde S. Kilby's *The Christian World of C. S. Lewis* or to Will Vaus's *Mere Theology*.

Finally, you want to read more accounts of how Lewis's life and work changed lives, consider the following list of books of memoirs and recollections by those who knew Lewis personally.

Brothers and Friends by Warren H. Lewis (Lewis's brother's diary entries about CSL)
Owen Barfield on C. S. Lewis by Owen Barfield (One of Lewis's closest friends)
Light on C. S. Lewis edited by Jocelyn Gibb (Lewis's publisher; contains accounts of several of Lewis's friends)
Lenten Lands and *Jack's Life* by Douglas H. Gresham (Lewis's stepson)

C. S. Lewis: Memories and Reflections by John Lawlor (A former student)
Remembering C. S. Lewis edited by James Como (includes several former colleagues and students)
In Search of C. S. Lewis edited by Stephen Schofield
We Remember C. S. Lewis edited by David Graham
C. S. Lewis Remembered edited by Hal Poe
C. S. Lewis, My Godfather: Letters, Photos and Recollections by Laurence Harwood