

Name: _____

Date: _____

Which Literary Inkling Are You?

Meet the Inklings



The **Inklings** were a famous group of writers and thinkers who met in Oxford, England, during the 1930s and 40s. They shared their unfinished stories, drank tea, and debated big ideas. The four most famous members had very different styles:

- 1. J.R.R. Tolkien:** Loved nature, invented languages, and wrote epic myths about epic journeys (*The Lord of the Rings*).
- 2. C.S. Lewis:** Loved wonder, talking animals, and using fantasy to explore big questions about good and evil (*The Chronicles of Narnia*).
- 3. Charles Williams:** Loved mysteries and believed that magic and the supernatural were hiding in everyday, modern life.
- 4. Owen Barfield:** The philosopher of the group. He loved thinking about how human language and imagination have changed over history.

Quote Analysis

Read each quote below, which represents the ideas of one of the Inklings. Write a brief explanation of what you think the quote means, and then rate how much you agree with it on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = Not at all, 5 = Totally me!).

Quote 1 (C.S. Lewis):

"When I was ten, I read fairy tales in secret. Now that I am fifty, I read them openly. When I became a man, I put away the fear of being 'childish' and the desire to be very grown up."

1. What is the author trying to say about growing up and imagination? Rate how much you agree with this idea (1-5).

Quote 2 (J.R.R. Tolkien):

"All that is gold does not glitter, Not all those who wander are lost; The old that is strong does not wither, Deep roots are not reached by the frost."

2. What does this quote tell us about exploring and not having a set plan? Rate how much you agree with this idea (1-5).

Quote 3 (Charles Williams):

"The ordinary world is never really ordinary. If you look closely enough, the supernatural and the magical are hidden right inside the streets and rooms where we live every day."

3. How does this quote change the way we look at normal, boring places? Rate how much you agree with this idea (1-5).

Quote 4 (Owen Barfield):

"Words are more than just labels. They are the history of human imagination. When we speak, we are using tools that have been shaped by the minds of people who lived thousands of years ago."

4. What does this suggest about the history of the words we speak every day? Rate how much you agree with this idea (1-5).

The Verdict 🏆

5. Look back at your ratings. Based on your highest scores and the themes you connected with most, **which literary Inkling are you most like?** Explain your choice using evidence from the quotes or the author descriptions above.

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