

# Forget Edward and Jacob! Are You Team Edmund or Team Peter?

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When I was little, I wanted nothing more than to run around with satyrs and talking animals in the lush, green forests of Narnia. The fantasy world from the mind of C.S. Lewis was something that I loved, and I was fixated on one character in particular. Although he is more of an antagonist at the beginning of the story, who helps lead Jadis, the White Witch, to his brother and sisters, gets Aslan killed, and all for some candy, Edmund Pevensie has always had my heart. Although Edmund makes some mistakes, he is an amazing character.

Because of his character development, Edmund is more interesting than his siblings, Peter, Susan, and Lucy. At the start of their adventures, it is stated that “Edmund could be spiteful, and on this occasion he was spiteful. He sneered and jeered at Lucy and kept on asking her if she had found any other new countries in other cupboards all over the house” (*The Lion*). Edmund makes it his mission to tease his little sister, and, despite the fact that none of her siblings believe Lucy when she says she found a magical world in a Wardrobe, Edmund makes fun of her imaginative nature until he ventures into the Armoire and discovers snow-covered trees among fur-coats. At the end of the book, The Pevensie siblings are crowned kings and queens of Narnia. He is described to be “a graver and quieter man than Peter, and great in council and judgement. He was called Edmund the Just” (*The Lion*). Edmund grows from being bad-tempered and jealous, to being agreeable and fair, and it’s this development that makes him more compelling than his siblings.

Another reason why I believe that Edmund is better than Peter is the unique way that he affects Narnia. Without Edmund’s knowledge of the White Witch, Aslan’s army would not have been able to defeat her and end the neverending winter. Yes, Edmund is the one who leads her to the opportunity of martyring Aslan and gaining the upper hand in the war, but when she is turning her opponents to stone, he knows her well enough to strike at her weapon and break it,

rather than at her. Without that action, Aslan's army would have become severely outnumbered. Aslan explains to Peter that, "There is a deep magic more powerful than any of us that rules over all of Narnia. It defines right from wrong and governs all our destinies" (Adamson). This applies to the impact that Edmund has on Narnia. Without him, it's likely that the White Witch would have remained in charge.

Admittedly, Edmund continues to fall victim to greed. Peter *is* the high king of Narnia and he *does* play a large role in restoring peace after the White Witch's reign, but he never seems to mess up, which isn't relatable. According to Katerina Diamond, Everyone encounters obstacles in life, it's hard to like people who don't, and more importantly it's hard to *relate* to people who don't" (*The Importance*). Making a character relatable hugely contributes to making a character likeable. What's even more likable about Edmund's fallibility is his inclination to learn from his mistakes and improve himself. He progresses from tormenting Lucy to supporting her wholeheartedly. After the Pevensies' return to Narnia, Lucy says she sees Aslan, but no one believes her. This event is similar to when no one believes her insistence that there's a forest in a wardrobe, but this time Edmund advocates for her when he says, "When we first discovered Narnia [...] it was Lucy who discovered it first and none of us would believe her. I was the worst of the lot, I know. Yet she was right after all. Wouldn't it be fair to believe her this time?" (*Prince*). Not only does he speak against Susan and Peter, his older siblings, he also maturely acknowledges his past mistakes.

If anyone can prove that it's possible to bounce back from betraying your entire family for Turkish Delight, Edmund can. Due to his character evolution, impact on the world and others around him, and his capability of recovering from slip-ups with grace, he is superior to Peter. Nothing can convince me otherwise, not even a scary lady offering me my favorite candy.

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