Clive Staples Lewis, (who preferred to be called Jack), was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 29th November, 1898. He had a happy childhood with his parents and brother Warren, playing in the long, dark passages of their big family home, and reading books.

But when Lewis’s mother died of cancer in 1908, his father sent the two brothers to a boarding school in England.

In 1916 Lewis went to Oxford University, but he left in 1917, when he joined the army in World War I. Lewis returned to Oxford in 1918 at the end of the war, and lived there for 45 years.

While he was a lecturer at Oxford University, Lewis began writing books. In 1926, he met another young lecturer, J.R.R. Tolkien. The two men became good friends. After one long discussion, during a walk one night in 1931, the world of literature changed forever. Their discussion was about fantasy worlds and time travel. Each influenced the other’s work. Lewis first had the idea to write a children’s book in 1939. At this time, the start of World War II, many children went to live with families in the country because it was safer than being in the cities. Some young children came to live in Lewis’s home. One child was very interested in playing in a wardrobe in Lewis’s house, and he began to write a story for the children to read. In 1950, his story became the classic book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

Lewis wrote six more Narnia books. They weren’t published in the same order in which he wrote them, but people usually read them in the published order.

The last one was *The Last Battle*, in 1956. At first reviewers didn’t like the books, but they soon became very popular. They have sold around 100 million copies.

In 1956, just after he finished the last Narnia book, he married Joy Gresham. He continued to write, but spent most of his time caring for Joy, who had cancer. She died in 1960.

Lewis died on 22nd November 1963.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated on the same day that Lewis died—22nd November 1963. The author of *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley, also died on the 22nd November.
2 Numer correttamente gli eventi.
   ___ He finished the last Narnia book.
   ___ He got married.
   ___ He and his brother went to boarding school.
   ___ He joined the army.
   ___ He met J.R.R. Tolkien.
   ___ He wrote *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.
   ___ His wife died.
   ___ Lewis went to Oxford University to study.
   1 Lewis's mother died.
   ___ Some children from the city came to live in his home in the country.

3 Leggi alcuni estratti del capitolo iniziale di *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Rispondi alle domande.

Looking into the inside, she saw several coats hanging up—mostly long fur coats. There was nothing Lucy liked so much as the smell and feel of fur. She immediately stepped into the wardrobe and got in among the coats and rubbed her face against them, leaving the door open, of course, because she knew that it is very foolish to shut oneself into any wardrobe.

Next moment she found that what was rubbing against her face and hands was no longer soft fur but something hard and rough and even prickly. "Why, it is just like branches of trees!" exclaimed Lucy. And then she saw that there was a light ahead of her; not a few inches away where the back of the wardrobe ought to have been, but a long way off. Something cold and soft was falling on her. A moment later she found that she was standing in the middle of a wood at night-time with snow under her feet and snowflakes falling through the air.

1 What did Lucy see in the wardrobe?
2 Why did she get inside the wardrobe?

3 Why did she leave the door open?
4 What was the ‘hard and rough and even prickly’ thing she could feel?
5 What did she find, instead of the back of the wardrobe?

Presentazione orale

4 Project Prepara una presentazione orale su un classico italiano della letteratura. Prendi degli appunti usando le seguenti domande per aiutarti. Parla per circa 2 minuti.

- What is the book called?
- Who wrote it, and when?
- What is it about? Who are the characters?
- What do you know about the writer's life?
- Did the writer's life play a role in the story? How?
- Did you like this book? Why, or why not?

Look!

In inglese, le date di solito si scrivono così: 29 November / November 29 / 29th November / November 29th. Ma quando parliamo di una data, diciamo: the twenty-ninth of November / on November the twenty-ninth. Si usa on se parliamo di una data specifica: on the twenty-second of November ma si usa in se citiamo soltanto il mese o l’anno: in November in 1963

DVD 3 Puoi trovare ulteriori informazioni su un altro scrittore inglese nel *Culture 3* del DVD e a pag. 32.