

# **Student Essay on Screwtape Letters, A Character Analysis**

**Screwtape Letters, A Character Analysis by C. S. Lewis**

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# Essay

In a thrilling book by C.S. Lewis, the author takes the reader on a compelling ride in which he shows how evil fights against good. The *Screwtape Letters* focuses on Screwtape, the teacher and Wormwood, the apprentice. The two characters are completely different; in age, skill, and experience. Yet the two both have the same outcome in mind, to steal souls from God.

Just coming out of school, Wormwood is still very inexperienced. In one letter Screwtape sends to his nephew, he states: "The contemptous way in which you use gluttony as a means of catching souls, in your last letter, shows only your ignorance" (97). Being Wormwood's first case, Screwtape writes letters to him, giving him advice and helping him along. Many times in the story Wormwood's ignorance and whiftness is shown. Screwtape doesn't just counsel him, but he also grows in patience and love for his apprentice. At the end of the book, when Wormwood fails his mission, Screwtape responds in a loving way: "My dear, my very dear, Wormwood, my poppet, my pignie...my love for you and your love for me are as like two peas" (109). Even though they start out as opposites, they come together to support each other.

Wormwood is still very ignorant in the manipulation process. Screwtape, on the other hand, is very wise and experienced. Throughout the book Screwtape's patience is tested: "I sometimes wonder if you think you have been sent into this world for your own amusement" (Lewis 106). Each letter that Screwtape receives produces a new problem to solve, and more patience is needed. Although Screwtape has a lot of good advice, Wormwood doesn't always use it, being too proud to admit needing help: "So! Your man is in love-and in the worst kind possibly have fallen into- and with a girl who does not even appear in the report you sent me" (82). This being after his Screwtape told him to keep his patient away from love.

In conclusion, C.S. Lewis shows how evil fights against good. The reader sees how demons manipulate our lives and how Christians can counteract the attacks.

The two characters in the story represent two demons attacking Christian lives, and how these two demons are completely different.