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# Do I Dare Disturb The Universe?: The Celebrated Speech



## Synopsis

"Do I Dare Disturb the Universe?" is Madeleine L'Engle's spirited defense of the responsibility of children's literature to confront difficult questions, as she did in all her work, particularly her masterpiece *A Wrinkle in Time*. This e-book contains the text of her famous speech as well as her introduction to the twenty-fifth anniversary of *A Wrinkle in Time* and a facsimile of a chapter from the original manuscript with Madeleine's notations.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As soon as I saw this, I had to have it. It is an e-book that contains the text of a speech Madeleine L'Engle gave about different types of censorship and the responsibility of writers of children's literature to ask good questions and be faithful to the truth of things. On censorship, I agree with Ms. L'Engle that we all censor to some degree, just by choosing one book over another. But we are choosing for ourselves and our families, not for the entire community, not attempting to use the police power of the state to control what others have access to. Books do give us the opportunity to explore new experiences and ideas without leaving the safety of home, or the comfort and counsel of our friends and family. Books ask us questions that we never knew needed asking, and quite

often they leave us without any answers. Ain't that the way it's supposed to be? I also enjoyed reading her introduction to *A Wrinkle in Time*, giving us a glimpse into the ideas behind the story, and surprising me with the number of rejection slips she received from publishers who didn't understand the story, or felt that it was too hard for children. When have children's stories ever been just sunshine and puppies? There has always been death and pain, the face of evil, betrayal and hardship, in children's literature. Hansel and Gretel anyone? Through stories we can introduce and prepare our children for realities they've yet to experience, or to offer perspective and comfort to them when they have had their first taste of bitter tears. The e-book finishes with a scanned copy of the original manuscript of *A Wrinkle in Time*. It was interesting to try to understand the word choices and edits that mark the pages. Little is more fascinating to me than the writing process, and it was a pleasure to see a bit of that from the author of a much beloved children's book.

This was a bit of a rip-off--- the content is from a lecture that contains much of the same material as parts of the *Crosswicks Journals*. If you've read the journals, there's nothing new here.

This is actually a speech she gave, but is written in her deep and thoughtful style, and a wonderful read. She explores the importance of handling difficult topics in children's literature. She has several very interesting and moving things to say, and as always is thought-provoking. One note: the facsimile taken from the original manuscript for "*A Wrinkle in Time*" is mostly impossible to read on my little basic kindle (I can't zoom in on it). If you have a larger/more powerful device you should be fine.

A great speech which encourages both creativity, learning language and conceptual understanding. There is also a preface of the 1983 edition of *A Wrinkle in Time* which shares the history of how it came to publication.

This is short enough to read in one sitting, I bought and read it on my phone while traveling. L'Engle's fiction has always interested me, and it was nice to get a peek into what she thinks about the responsibility that comes with writing for kids. She certainly took it seriously and it shows in her work.

It was just getting started and then it stopped with some pictures of the book which were unreadable on the Kindle.

Love this sampling of her speeches. So conversational and informative. I have read most of her work but have never seen this. So glad I did.

Deeply thought provoking with a light touch. Would recommend especially to young writers of all ages. Her creative energy, vivid personality, and character makes one wish to have been a member of her circle of friends.

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