

# Animals Versus Humans in *Der Struwwelpeter* and the *Chronicles of Narnia*

## Abstract

*Der Struwwelpeter* is a classic children's German book that attempts to teach about behavior by exaggerated punishments. In many of the stories in *Der Struwwelpeter*, it is clear that animals have a significant purpose. The animals are portrayed as powerful and dominant against the protagonists, adding a statement on the effects of misbehavior. However, compared to animals in other children's literature, animals in *Der Struwwelpeter* serve quite different roles. In this poster, we will take a closer look at the similarities and differences between the animals in *Der Struwwelpeter* and C. S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*. The animals in *Der Struwwelpeter* take control over the humans whereas the animals in *The Chronicles of Narnia* are friendly and welcoming towards the humans. This poster will aim to compare the relationship between animals and human characters in Hoffman's *Der Struwwelpeter* and C. S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia*.

## A Glimpse into the *Chronicles of Narnia*

In the *Chronicles of Narnia*, there are many interactions between humans and animals. The animals can talk in all of the books. The lion, Aslan, provides comfort and guidance for the humans; the beavers exhibit bravery and are welcoming towards the humans they encounter; the Faun, Mr. Tumnus, shows kindness and helpfulness when the children are lost in their travels. There are also more types of animals in these books that portray many characteristics; however, these specific characters are clearly good-natured and have positive interactions with the humans. Although there is a clear divide between humans and animals, C. S. Lewis details natural understanding between them. Overall, most animals in the novels approach the humans with graciousness and help.

## Similarities

- All types of animals in both texts can talk to the humans.
- Even though the animals' behavior differs between *Der Struwwelpeter* and the *Chronicles of Narnia*, there is a clear division between animals and humans; they possess different traits.
- In both *Der Struwwelpeter* and the *Chronicles of Narnia*, the animals add humor and a layer of sarcasm to the plot.



## Conclusion

From our research, it is evident that there are many similarities and differences between *Der Struwwelpeter* and the *Chronicles of Narnia*. We discovered that there is an overall positive interaction between the humans and the helpful animals in the *Chronicles of Narnia*. Meanwhile, the animals in *Der Struwwelpeter* approach the humans with more dominance and superiority. We also found a similarity between the two texts in that the animals can talk, are clearly separated from the humans, and add humor.

## A Peak into *Der Struwwelpeter*

In *Der Struwwelpeter*, some of the stories reveal that the lower group (the animals) triumphs over the higher group (the humans), an illegitimate victory. Like animals, children are prone to their instincts, contrary to adults, who have undergone a civilizing process. Though in *Der Struwwelpeter*, both children and adults give way to animals. The story "Die Geschichte vom bösen Friederich," states that if you purposely do harm onto others, animals or humans, more harm will come to you. Also, never underestimate anyone, especially animals. In "Die Geschichte vom wilden Jäger," states that if you let your down, bad things could happen. In Heinrich Hoffman's book, he gives the animals the dominance and helps them show the humans how they are treated by paying it back.

## Differences

- The animals in *Der Struwwelpeter* show more dominance whereas in *Chronicles of Narnia* the humans show more dominance.
- In *Chronicles of Narnia*, the humans and animals work together and respect each other. However, in *Der Struwwelpeter*, the humans try to hurt the animals at first; then the scenes change, and the animals are trying to hurt the humans.
- The humans and animals in *Der Struwwelpeter* work against each other, but the animals triumph in the end. Whereas in the *Chronicles of Narnia*, the humans and animals work together to defeat the antagonist.

## References

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