

High Fantasy on the Big Screen by Marilla Word

Abstract: *Libraries aren't just for books! This article offers a list of film adaptations of some High Fantasy's most beloved books.*

High fantasy books can take readers on an exhilarating transportation to another world. However, some people prefer seeing these stories unfold visually. Some people like to do both and compare the differences between their favourite books and the silver-screen versions. For some, these film adaptations of high fantasy novels may offer an introduction to the genre, inspiring them to go to their library and find more high fantasy content. Below is a list of some high fantasy films that have been adapted from novels (or in one case vice-versa). Libraries could include these films in their collection, or even offer a movie night for teens.



A Wrinkle in Time (2018)

[Image: IMDB](#)

Based on the Madeleine L'Engle's novel of the same title, *A Wrinkle in Time* follows Meg Murry, a girl whose scientist father has been missing in space for five years. Meg, along with her brother Chris, and classmate, Calvin must go face evil on another planet to be able to bring Meg's father home. Although the film was not considered a commercial success, it is entertaining, nonetheless.

DuVernay, A. (Director), & Lee, J., & Stockwell, J. (Screenwriters). (2018). *A Wrinkle in Time* [Motion picture]. United States: Walt Disney.

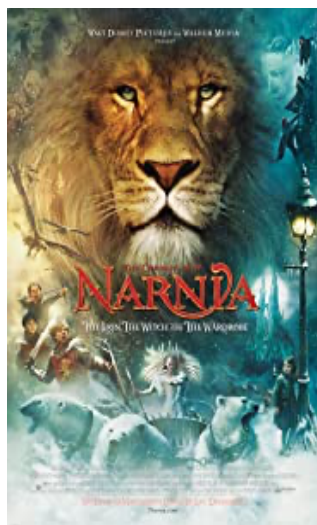


Pan's Labyrinth (2006)

[Image: IMDB](#)

Guillermo del Toro's 2006 film, *Pan's Labyrinth* is not based on a book, however, there has been a book version published since the success of the film. A visual masterpiece, this Spanish film, follows Ofelia, stepdaughter to the brutal Captain Vidal. Ofelia is told by a magic faun that she is the reincarnation of a princess from the underworld, and by completing tasks she can regain her throne, and with it immortality.

Toro, G. D. (Director). (2006). *Pan's Labyrinth* [Motion picture]. Mexico & Spain: Warner Bros. Pictures.



The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (2006)

[Image: IMDB](#)

Based on C.S. Lewis' first novel in the Narnia series, this film, just as the book did, brings HIGH FANTASY. The Narnia series are undoubtedly some of the most widely read books in the High Fantasy genre, and this movie works as a great introduction to the genre. The story, set in WWII, follows Lucy, a young girl who travels through a magical wardrobe to Narnia. Returning to get her brothers to join her, the siblings travel back to Narnia where they help Aslan, a magical lion, in his battle against the evil witch.

Adamson, A. (Director), & Peacock, A., Adamson, A., Markus, C., & McFeely, S. (Screenwriters). (2006). *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* [Motion picture]. California: Walt Disney.



Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)

[Image: IMDB](#)

J.R.R. Tolkien is, without a doubt, one of the most important names in High Fantasy. *Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* is the first novel in Tolkien's Lord of the Ring's trilogy, and the film adaptation is about as High Fantasy as it gets. Magic, wizards, hobbits, elves, and orcs all exist in Middle Earth. This film would be a great introduction for teens interested in High Fantasy.

Jackson, P. (Director). (2001). *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* [Motion picture]. New Zealand & U.S.A: New Line Home Entertainment.