

Year 7- Module 2

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

By: Lewis Carroll
(Charles Lutwidge
Dodgson)

Written in 1865



Statement of

Inquiry: Authors present personal and cultural expression through changes in characters and purpose.

Character List: (main characters only)

Alice: The heroine of the novel, a child who jumps down a rabbit hole and goes on an adventure into Wonderland - meeting many characters on her way.

The White Rabbit: Messenger and a herald at the Court of the King and Queen of Hearts. Recognisable as having a large pocket watch.

The Mouse: Sensitive character that Alice meets in a pool of tears.

The Dodo: A caricature of the author, Dodgson, who chose that animal to represent himself because of his stammer, and would accidentally introduce himself as "Do-do-dodgson"

The Caterpillar: Wise, enigmatic, and mellow, he gives Alice some valuable advice about how to navigate Wonderland. He smokes a hookah and sits on a mushroom, which he gives to Alice to give her control of her size in Wonderland.

The Duchess: Disagreeable woman nursing a baby, which turns into a pig. Later, she speaks only in morals and is put under sentence of execution.

The Cheshire Cat: Sharp claws and alarming bright teeth. He is courteous and helpful and his face is fixed in an eerie grin. He can make any and all parts of his body disappear and reappear which can be alarming.

The Mad Hatter: is always at tea, ever since Time stopped working for him. He takes his tea with the March Hare and Dormouse and Alice is temporarily their guest. The tea party is synonymous with nonsense. Later, the nervous hatter is forced to be a witness at the trial.

The Queen of Hearts: The Queen of Hearts terrorises Wonderland with constant threats of execution, though we soon realise that these threats are ineffectual. Alice is first scared of her but then remembers that the Queen's threats are nonsense and that she is flat and thin as a playing card. The Queen embodies the sometimes nonsensical commands and punishments handed out by adults and could be seen as a caricature of Queen Victoria.

The King of Hearts: The calmer companion of the Queen of Hearts, reigning over Wonderland, but is a servant to the Queen's violent whims. He ineffectually takes on the role of Judge in the palace court.

The Mock Turtle: A sorrowful figure, who sits reminiscing by the sea, with his friend, the Gryphon.

Minor characters:

The Lory, The Eaglet, The Duck, Pat, Bill the Lizard, Puppy, The Knave of Hearts, The Gryphon, baby, cook, Time, The March Hare, The Dormouse

Summary (12 Chapters):

Chapter 1- Down the Rabbit Hole: Focuses on Alice falling down the rabbit hole.

Chapter 2- Pool of Tears: Alice grows, and cries a pool of tears, and then shrinks, falling into the pool.

Chapter 3: A Caucus Race and a Long Tale: Alice and a group of animals land on the bank and focus on getting dry, which they do by completing a Caucus race.

Chapter 4: The Rabbit Sends in a Little Bill: Alice grows massively in the White Rabbit's house.

Chapter 5: Advice from a Caterpillar: Alice meets the Caterpillar on top of the mushroom and they discuss her identity.

Chapter 6: Pig and Pepper: Alice meets the cook and duchess and a sneezing baby.

Chapter 7: A Mad Tea Party: Alice meets the Hatter, Dormouse, and the March Hare who are having a nonsense tea party.

Chapter 8: The Queen's Croquet Ground: Alice meets trembling gardeners before playing an inhumane version of croquet with the queen.

Chapter 9: The Mock Turtle's Story: Focuses on the Mock Turtle telling his sad tale about when he was a real turtle.

Chapter 10: The Lobster Quadrille: The Mock Turtle and the Gryphon describe the Lobster-Quadrille, a dance where all of the sea animals partner up with the lobsters.

Chapter 11: Who Stole the Tarts?: Alice arrives at court where the Knave of Hearts is on trial for having stolen the Queen's tarts.

Chapter 12: Alice's Evidence: Alice, who is grown large, knocks over the jury. Alice argues with the King of Hearts to complete the trial. Alice leaves Wonderland.

Settings (importance):

Rabbit Hole: symbolises Alice's arrival in Wonderland

Tea Party: Symbolic of nonsense

Queen of Hearts Garden: Symbolic of the Queen's anger and irrationality

Court Room: Symbolic of the Queen's unjust rule

Hallway (with doors): Symbolic of the many routes available in Wonderland.

Themes:	Key Vocabulary/Spelling:	Context:	Subject Terminology:
<p>Identity: Alice is constantly asked to identify herself by the characters she meets. Her constant changing of size makes her question her identity and struggle to know who she is.</p> <p>Childhood: Alice's changes in size and her frustration with this represents the way a child's body changes through puberty into adulthood. Alice represents innocence of childhood, in opposition to the arbitrary rules given by adults.</p> <p>Time: Time does not move in Wonderland and is personified. The Hatter has offended Time so has been frozen.</p> <p>Justice: Although there are plenty of "rules," the laws of Wonderland seem a parody of real justice. The trial of the Knave of Hearts satirises too much law.</p> <p>Animals: All the animals Alice meets are friendly and because of Alice's size she considers these animals as adults in her life.</p>	<p>Pseudonym: A fictitious name used by an author</p> <p>Heroine: Female courageous lead</p> <p>Caricature: An exaggerated or distorted imitation of a person/thing</p> <p>Execution: A sentence of death condemned on a person</p> <p>Nonsense: words which make no sense.</p> <p>Gryphon: Winged monster with the head of an eagle and the body of a lion</p> <p>Hookah: An oriental tobacco pipe with a long flexible tube connected to a container where the smoke is cooled by passing through water</p> <p>Mock: Treat with contempt or scorn. To make a replica or imitation of something.</p> <p>Dodo: An extinct heavy flightless bird of Mauritius related to pigeons</p> <p>Croquet: A game in which players hit a ball through a series of hoops</p> <p>Eccentric: Unconventional and slightly strange behaviour</p> <p>Insolence: Contemptuously rude behaviour or speech.</p>	<p>Alice Liddell - a child who was family friends with Lewis Carroll. Her sisters asked for a story, which was about a little girl who had amazing adventures when she jumped down a rabbit hole.</p> <p>Lewis Carroll - the pseudonym of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, a lecturer in mathematics at Oxford. Carroll was partially deaf and had a large stammer which made him an unlikely candidate for children fantasies.</p> <p>Queen Victoria - A respected female leader at the time. The Queen of Hearts is argued to be a caricature of Queen Victoria, whilst she had timid Prince Albert by her side the Queen of Hearts had the King of Hearts.</p> <p>Science vs. religion - Victorian England went through an 'age of improvement' with large population growth and industrialisation. Darwin argued for evolution which was at conflict with many believing in the importance of God in the creation of life. Carroll hints at this conflict in the novel, evident for example in the Dodo who is extinct.</p> <p>Nonsense Fiction - a genre of literature which was purposely confusing. It was designed to entertain children</p> <p>Alice in Wonderland Syndrome (AiWS)/Todd's syndrome/dysmetropsia - Size disformity where items seem smaller or larger than they really are. Alice experiences this, hence the name. There is speculation that Carroll may have written the story using his own experience from the result of numerous migraines.</p>	<p>Parody: A humorous imitation of a serious piece of writing.</p> <p>Allegory: A representation of an abstract meaning through concrete form.</p> <p>Homophones: Words having the same pronunciation but different meanings, origins, or spelling</p> <p>Fantasy: a genre of writing in which the plot could not happen in real life</p> <p>Allusions: brief and indirect reference to a person, place, thing or idea of historical, cultural, literary or political significance.</p> <p>Metaphors: A figure of speech in which a word or phrase is compared to another object.</p> <p>Anthropomorphism: attribution of human characteristics or behaviour to an animal or object.</p> <p>Concrete Poem: where part of the meaning of the poem is portrayed visually</p> <p>Satire: The use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticise.</p>

