

Reflections:

*A Student Response Journal for...*

*Alice's Adventures  
in Wonderland  
by Lewis Carroll*

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ISBN 978-1-60389-501-9  
Item No. 202323

## Pre-Reading

1. Some editions of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* include a poem that introduces the story and begins with the line "All in the Golden Afternoon..." and/or one titled "Christmas Greetings" before Chapter I. If the edition you are using includes one or both of these poems, read them, and note the rhyming pattern(s). Then, create your own poem using the same rhyming pattern as the poem or one of the poems. Your poem can be about any subject you choose.

## Chapter I: Down the Rabbit-Hole

2. At the beginning of the book, Alice is bored while sitting by her sister, who is reading. Alice isn't interested in the book. "...what is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations?" Using only this characterization, how old do you suppose Alice is? What made you come to that conclusion? Why are pictures and conversations in a book helpful? How can they be a deterrent to the reader? Answer these questions in a paragraph or two.
3. Alice isn't surprised when she hears the rabbit speak but is fascinated that he has a watch and a waistcoat-pocket. If someone traveled through time and came to live with your family, what would seem normal? What things would amaze him or her? Make a list of at least 5 examples of each.
4. One of Alice's more endearing traits is the way she makes mistakes about factual things, and even though she realizes it, she does not let this bother her. A good example of this can be found when she says, "...I wonder what latitude or longitude I've got to?" She has not the faintest idea of what either of these words means and uses them only because she "thought they were nice grand words to say."

Find two other examples of things about which Alice is mistaken in this chapter. Explain what Alice's mistakes are in your own words.

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5. Alice falls to the bottom of the rabbit-hole and then chases the White Rabbit through a passage that leads to a long hall lined with many doors. Alice finds a key that unlocks a hidden, tiny door. It opens to a beautiful garden, and Alice longs to walk through it.

Imagine that you had come across the hall of doors and unlocked the tiniest one. What would be behind it? Write a description of what you would want to find beyond the door. It does not need to be a place. It can be an event, people, or objects. Use your imagination, and be as detailed as you can.

6. Alice is disappointed that she is too big to fit through the tiny door. She wishes that there were a “book of rules” for “shutting people up like telescopes.” She does, however, find a bottle with the command “DRINK ME” on it. Alice knows there are safety rules that one must never forget, including not drinking from bottles marked “poison.” After checking the bottle, she decides it’s safe and drinks from it. In addition, she sees a piece of cake labeled “EAT ME,” which she does. Both of these actions could have had terrible consequences.

Alice could use some help to deal with the strange experience she’s having. Create a “book of rules” for her. Review the events of this chapter, and choose at least five situations in which Alice could use some guidance. Then, write directions or a rule for each situation. We have started one for you.

How to become shut up like a telescope: \_\_\_\_\_

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7. Carroll writes, “She generally gave herself very good advice (though she very seldom followed it).” Alice describes battling with herself to do the right thing and then punishing herself in some way when she doesn’t. She sees it as being like two people. Most of us experience times when we struggle to do what we know is good or right. Sometimes, we choose not to do what is right and regret it afterwards, as Alice often does.

Think of a time when you were in that position, and you chose not to do what would have been best. It can be as simple as the choice between eating a piece of fruit or a piece of candy to something more complicated, like whether to stop participating in a sport or other activity. Why did you make that decision, and what were the consequences? Describe your experience in a journal entry. If you have never been in that situation, you may create a hypothetical one or describe one from a movie, TV show, or book.

8. Suppose one of your friends said *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* couldn't be interesting because it was written so long ago that it's considered a classic, and classics are boring. Write a brief summary of the events from Chapter I that will convince your friend that this is a fast-paced, action-adventure story with many surprises. Be as creative as you can to describe the events in a way that will capture your friend's interest.

## **Chapter II: The Pool of Tears**

9. There is a good deal of humor throughout this story. Many examples of it can be found in this chapter. Choose the funniest thing you have found in this chapter, and summarize it in a “Twitter” message. “Twitter” is an Internet website that allows people to share information with others in 140 characters or less. (Spaces count as characters.) Remember, you are recounting an amusing moment, so you should convey that in your message.

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10. Alice realizes she has put on one of the White Rabbit's gloves: "How *can* I have done that?" she thought. "I must be growing small again." She got up and went to the table to measure herself by it and found that, as nearly as she could guess, she was now about two feet high and continuing to shrink rapidly.

Think about the advantages and disadvantages of shrinking from your current height to Alice's current height of two feet. Make a two-column chart. Label one column "Pros," and list what you think would be positive aspects of being that small. Label the other column "Cons," and list what you think would be the negative aspects.

11. In an attempt to make conversation with the Mouse, Alice, unfortunately, tells him about her cat, Dinah, and he gets very upset. Clearly, Alice didn't mean to bring up such an unpleasant subject; she just began talking about the first thing she thought the Mouse might understand. If she had taken more time to think about how to initiate the conversation, she could have chosen a more neutral subject.

It can be difficult and awkward to start a conversation with someone we've just met. Think of something Alice could have said to introduce herself and talk to the mouse about that would have resulted in a more pleasant outcome. Write a dialogue of at least half a page between Alice and the Mouse.

### **Chapter III: A Caucus-Race and a Long Tale**

12. The Mouse begins a story about William the Conqueror, using words that the Eaglet doesn't know: "Speak English!" said the Eaglet. "I don't know the meaning of half those long words, and what's more, I don't believe you do either!"

The following is a list of some of the words the Mouse uses. Use a dictionary to find the definitions of the words. Then, match the words with their corresponding definitions. Put the number of the definition on the line beside the word. Then, find two more words in this chapter that you are unfamiliar with, look them up in a dictionary, and write down their definitions.

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| ___ sulky      | 1. a flightless bird                   |
| ___ usurpation | 2. in an irritable tone of voice       |
| ___ lory       | 3. sullen, moody                       |
| ___ dodo       | 4. a black bird                        |
| ___ snappishly | 5. taking over without authority       |
| ___ thimble    | 6. wet and/or dirty                    |
| ___ draggled   | 7. a small metal cap for the fingertip |
| ___ magpie     | 8. a parrot of Australia or Indonesia  |

13. The Mouse becomes angry with Alice because she isn't paying attention. The Crab then says to her daughter, "Ah, my dear! Let this be a lesson to you never to lose your temper!" When the Mouse loses his temper and stomps away, he loses the opportunity to make Alice understand him better.

Write about a time you lost your temper and the opportunities it cost you. Then, write how you think you could have handled the situation differently.