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ALICE  
IN  
WONDERLAND



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# CONTENTS

<b>Chapter 1 - From a Rabbit Hole to a Fantasy World</b> . . . . .	4
Activities . . . . .	13
<b>Chapter 2 - The Caterpillar and the Pigeon</b> . . . . .	16
Activities . . . . .	23
<b>Chapter 3 - The Duchess and the Cheshire Cat</b> . . . . .	26
Activities . . . . .	31
<b>Chapter 4 - Tea Party in the March Hare's Garden</b> . . . . .	34
Activities . . . . .	40
<b>Chapter 5 - The Croquet Game</b> . . . . .	43
Activities . . . . .	52
<b>Chapter 6 - The Queen's Tarts</b> . . . . .	55
Activities . . . . .	62
Glossary . . . . .	65
About the Author . . . . .	71

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## FROM A RABBIT HOLE TO A FANTASY WORLD

On a beautiful summer day, Alice and her older sister were sitting on the river **bank**. Her sister was reading a book, but Alice wasn't doing anything. Her sister's book had no pictures or conversations in it. 'It is no fun reading a book without pictures or conversations,' Alice thought. She was bored, so she wanted to find something to do. She thought of making a **daisy** chain, but she was too sleepy to get up and pick daisies. The hot weather made her very sleepy and lazy.

Suddenly, she saw a White Rabbit. 'Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!' the rabbit said to itself as it ran past her. Alice was not surprised when the rabbit talked. It looked natural to her. But she was surprised when the rabbit took a watch out of its **waistcoat** pocket and looked at it. 'A rabbit in a waistcoat and with a pocket watch! How strange!' she thought. She quickly rose to her feet and ran across the field after the rabbit. In a moment, the rabbit went into a rabbit-hole under the bushes. Alice bent down and went into the rabbit hole, too. The rabbit-hole was straight like a tunnel at first, but suddenly it went deep into the ground. So, Alice started falling down a deep **well** and couldn't stop.

Alice was falling very slowly down the well. She had a lot of time to look around as she fell. She could see nothing below because it was very dark. But on the sides of the well, there were cupboards and book shelves. There were pictures and maps hanging from nails attached to the shelves. While she was falling, she saw a marmalade jar in a cupboard. She took it, but she was very disappointed because it was empty. She put it back in another cupboard lower down.



*'A rabbit in a waistcoat and with a pocket watch! How strange!'  
she thought.*

'After falling like this, I won't be afraid of falling down the stairs at home or falling from the roof,' she thought. And she fell down and down. 'How many miles have I fallen? I wonder,' she said to herself. 'I think I am going down to the centre of the earth. That's four thousand miles.' Alice knew many things like this because she was a **bright** student and was very good at her lessons.

She had a lot of time to think as she was falling. She thought about her cat Dinah and many other things. 'Oh, poor Dinah will miss me. I hope my sister doesn't forget to **feed** her,' she said to herself. Thinking about many things made her sleepy. Soon, she was asleep and had some strange dreams. Finally just when she was in the middle of another dream, she woke up. She found herself on a **heap** of dry leaves and **twigs**. That was the bottom of the well. The fall was finished at last!

She looked up, but it was very dark above. In front of her, there was a long tunnel. Then she saw the White Rabbit again. 'Oh, my ears and whiskers!' the Rabbit was saying to itself. 'Oh, I am very late!' Alice began to run after the rabbit, but it turned a corner. Alice turned the corner, too, but the rabbit disappeared. And Alice found herself in a long, low hall.

There were many lamps hanging from the ceiling of the hall. There were doors on all the walls. She tried to open each one, but they were all locked. 'How am I going to get out of here?' she thought to herself sadly. Then, she **bumped into** a glass table with three legs. On the table, there was a tiny golden key. She tried to open each door with it, but it was impossible. The key was too small for the locks.

Then she saw a low curtain on one of the walls. Behind the curtain, there was a small door, about forty centimetres high: She put the little key in its lock, and opened it!

She kneeled down and looked out the tiny door. She saw a passage with a very beautiful garden at the end. She wanted to go to that garden, but of course she couldn't even get her head through the small door. 'What a beautiful garden!' she thought. 'Why can't I get smaller?' She sadly locked the door again and took the small golden key back to the glass table.

As she put the key back on the table, she saw a bottle on it. She was surprised because the bottle was not there before. There was a paper **label** around the neck of the bottle. On it, she read the words *DRINK ME* in big letters. 'It can be dangerous to drink it. So, I'll take a **sip** only,' she thought. Alice was a clever girl.

She took a sip and then two more sips. It tasted very nice, like cherry and orange juice, and chocolate. She loved it and drank the whole bottle. In a few seconds, she had a strange feeling. She was getting smaller and smaller! And in the end, she was only twenty centimetres tall.

'Oh, this is great! Now I can go through that tiny door into the beautiful garden!' she said to herself. And she happily went to the tiny door. But of course, it was locked. 'Oh, I forgot that I put the key back on the table,' she said. So, she went to the table to get it. But, now she was too short to reach the top of the table. She tried to climb up one of its legs, but it was too **slippery**. She **gave up** trying and sat on the floor. She began to cry. **Tears** were rolling down her cheeks.

While she was crying, she began to talk to herself. When Alice did something wrong, she always gave some advice to herself. This time, she advised herself to stop crying. 'Crying won't help you, Alice,' she said. And she also **scolded** herself by saying 'Stop crying right now and think wisely.'

At that moment, she saw a small glass box under the table. There was a cake in the box. She opened the box and took out the cake. On the cake, there were the words *EAT ME*, made with **raisins**. 'I'll eat this cake,' she thought. 'If it makes me bigger, I can reach the golden key. If I get smaller, I can easily **creep** under the door.'

She ate a little bit of the cake at first. Then she put her hand over her head. 'Am I getting taller or shorter?' she wondered. But nothing was happening. She was the same size. So, she decided to eat some more. She ate two more pieces, but again nothing happened. Finally, she finished the whole cake.

'Oh, my God! I think I have become too big this time!' she screamed. She tried to look down at her feet. But she could hardly see them. They were so far away. At that moment, her head struck the hall's ceiling because she was now more than three metres tall! So, she took the little key from the table and went to the garden door.

Of course, she was too big to go through the door. The hopeless girl lay down on the floor. She was **in tears** again. 'Aren't you **ashamed** of yourself? A big girl like you mustn't cry!' But she continued to cry and her tears formed a big pool around her. It was ten centimetres deep and went half way down the hall.

Suddenly, the White Rabbit appeared again. It was very nicely dressed and was walking **hurriedly** down the hall. It had a pair of white small gloves in one hand and a big **fan** in the other. 'Oh! The Duchess will be very angry! I am very late!' the Rabbit was saying to itself. Alice decided to ask the rabbit for help. 'Oh, please, sir, can you help me?' she asked in a quiet, **timid** voice.

The rabbit jumped up in fear when it saw the giant girl. It dropped the white gloves and the fan on the floor, and ran away into the darkness.





*But she continued to cry, and her tears formed a big pool around her.*

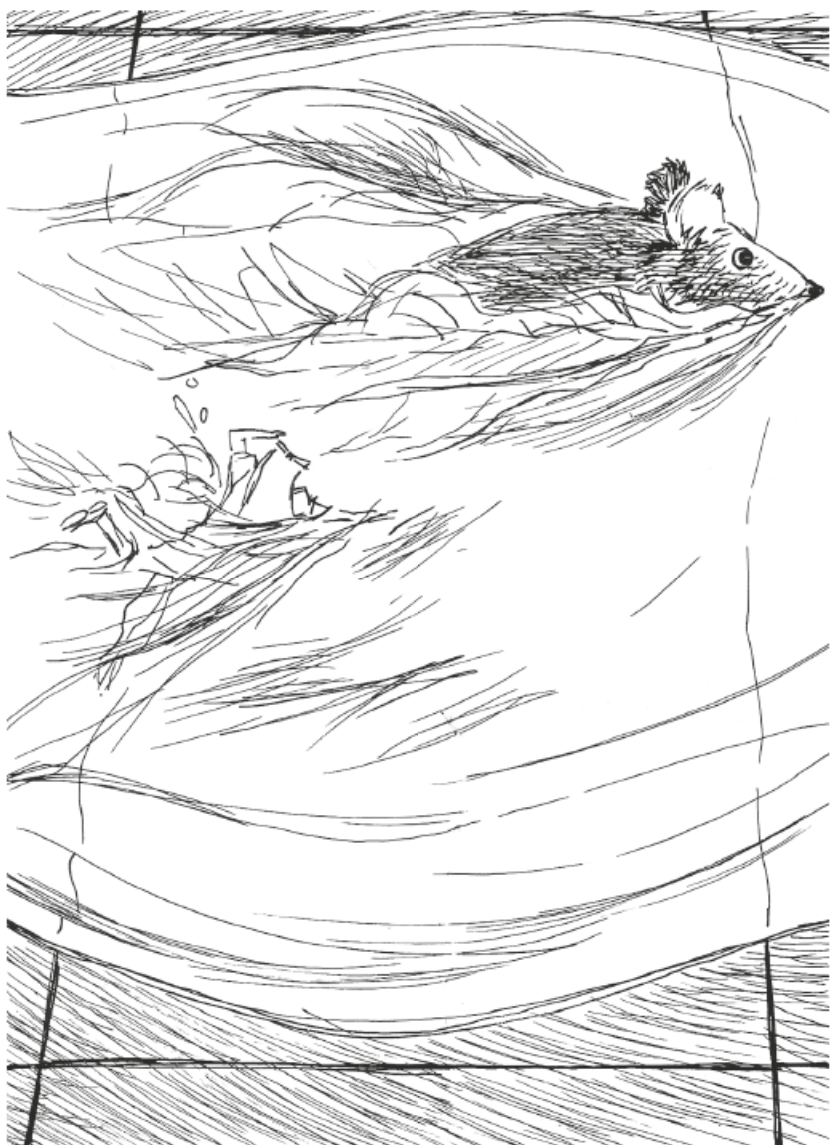
Alice picked up the rabbit's fan and gloves from the floor. She began to **fan** herself because it was very hot. She began to talk to herself again. 'Everything is so strange! Perhaps I have changed. I feel like a different person now. But who am I?'

As she was fanning herself and thinking, she looked at her hands. She was wearing one of the tiny white gloves on one hand. 'How did I put this on my hand?' she wondered. 'I think I am getting smaller again.' She went to the table and measured herself against it. She said, 'I think I am about half a metre now, maybe less than that.' She was **shrinking** as she talked. 'Maybe the fan is making me smaller,' she thought and dropped it immediately. Then she ran to the small door. She was excited because she was small enough to go through it into the garden.

When she reached the door, she cried out angrily. 'Oh, of course the door is locked, and the golden key is on the table. But now I am too short to get it!' At that moment, her foot **slipped**, and she fell into a pool of salt water. The salt water came up to her neck. 'Have I fallen into the sea?' she thought. Then she remembered that she was about three meters tall when she was crying. 'This is a pool of my large **teardrops**, of course! I don't want to drown in my own teardrops,' she said and began to swim. She was trying to find a way out of the pool.

Just then she heard a **splash** in the water. There was a huge animal swimming in the pool, too. She thought it was a **hippopotamus**, but when she swam near it, she saw that it was a mouse. 'The rabbit can speak, so this mouse can probably speak, too,' she thought.

'Oh, Mouse, do you know the way out of this pool?' she asked.



*She thought it was a hippopotamus, but when she swam near it,  
she saw that it was a mouse.*

The mouse didn't answer her, but just looked at her in a friendly way, winking one of its eyes.

'Perhaps this mouse doesn't speak English. Maybe it's a French mouse. Then she asked the mouse a question in French. '*Ou est ma chatte?*' She remembered this from her French class. It meant, 'Where is my cat?' The mouse began to shake in fear when it heard this question.

'Oh, I am sorry. You are afraid of cats, aren't you?' Alice asked kindly.

'All mice are afraid of cats. You must know this; you are a big girl!' the Mouse said angrily.

'Yes, I know that. I'm really sorry. Are you afraid of dogs, too?' she asked.

This time the Mouse's face became white with anger. It began to swim away from Alice as fast as it could, making big waves in the water. Now the water was crowded with other creatures; a duck and an old bird, a red parrot and a baby **eagle**, and several other small birds.

'Have I **offended** you again?' shouted Alice to the Mouse.

'You must stop talking and follow me, if you want to reach the end of the pool,' the Mouse said. And Alice swam after it.



**ACTIVITIES**

**A. Fill in the blanks under the pictures with the words from the box below.**

feeding    fanning    scolding    creeping    heap    slippery

1.



a \_\_\_\_\_ of  
leaves

2.



\_\_\_\_\_ out  
from under bed

3.



\_\_\_\_\_ a child

4.



\_\_\_\_\_ road

5.



\_\_\_\_\_ a cat

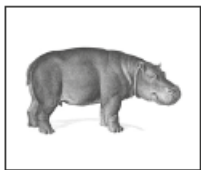
6.



\_\_\_\_\_ herself

B. Look at the word search and find the names of the things in the pictures (1-6). Write the names under the pictures.

1.



\_\_\_\_\_

2.



\_\_\_\_\_

3.



\_\_\_\_\_

4.



\_\_\_\_\_

5.



\_\_\_\_\_

6.



\_\_\_\_\_

R	N	Y	D	C	T	I	A	U	F	G	E	R	U	L
I	A	B	A	A	N	B	L	O	E	L	S	N	Z	G
H	Y	I	I	C	X	M	D	M	B	U	P	K	D	A
W	C	S	S	Q	H	J	P	H	M	Z	X	L	K	U
C	B	G	Y	I	J	F	I	A	U	C	E	K	Y	O
E	L	A	G	Y	N	D	T	I	H	X	X	I	W	Y
Z	Q	B	E	Q	R	O	O	K	C	G	I	V	B	Z
K	A	G	E	W	P	S	H	E	W	F	O	C	X	T
D	E	O	M	O	Y	X	E	G	E	Z	Z	C	C	T
X	K	N	P	Y	G	T	N	E	D	V	I	U	W	R
I	X	P	W	A	I	S	T	C	O	A	T	I	F	A
T	I	I	B	L	L	E	W	M	K	Q	G	P	V	Y
H	R	W	A	N	S	R	B	E	M	J	E	J	L	D
E	U	H	K	A	M	U	P	W	C	Q	Z	C	P	X
Z	S	Z	M	R	A	I	S	G	N	G	R	G	B	L

**C. Fill in the blanks in the sentences below with suitable words from the text. You must write only one word in each blank!**

1. The White Rabbit was wearing a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The rabbit hole led to a deep \_\_\_\_\_ under the ground.
3. Alice couldn't climb up the table's leg because it was \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Alice tried hard to reach the key on the table. Then she \_\_\_\_\_ up trying.
5. Alice read the words DRINK ME on the \_\_\_\_\_ around the bottle.
6. Alice was afraid to drink the liquid in the bottle. She took just one \_\_\_\_\_ first.
7. Alice couldn't go through the door, so she felt very sad. She was in \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When Alice was in trouble, she always gave herself a piece of \_\_\_\_\_.

**D. Complete the second sentence in each line with a word with the same meaning as the underlined phrase in the first sentence. Number 1 is an example.**

1. Alice hit against a glass table by mistake. She bumped into it.
2. As Alice lay in front of the door, she felt guilty and sorry for crying. She was a \_\_\_\_\_ of herself.
3. When Alice did something wrong or bad, she criticised herself angrily. She s \_\_\_\_\_ ed herself.
4. Alice asked the White Rabbit for help, in a shy and fearful voice. She sounded t \_\_\_\_\_.
5. While Alice was fanning herself, she was getting smaller in size. She was s \_\_\_\_\_ ing.
6. Alice thought she hurt the mouse's feelings. She thought she o \_\_\_\_\_ ed it.
7. Alice heard a sound of something moving in the water. She heard a s \_\_\_\_\_.

## GLOSSARY

### Chapter 1 - From a Rabbit Hole to a Fantasy World

**ashamed** (adj) feeling sorry and embarrassed because of something bad you have done

**bank** (n) a land along the side of a river or lake

**bright** (adj) shining strongly; full of light

brightly (adv)

**bump into** (phr. v) to meet someone you know unexpectedly; to meet by chance

**creep** (v) to move slowly and quietly, especially to avoid attracting attention; to crawl

**daisy chain** (n) daisies joined together in a string that you can wear around your neck

**eagle** (n) a very large bird with a curved beak

**fan** (n) an object made of folded paper or other material that you wave in your hand to move the air and make yourself feel cooler

fan (v)

**feed** (v) to give food to an animal or a person

**give up** (phr. v) to stop trying to do something

**hippopotamus** (n) a very large African animal with short legs and a big head

**hurriedly** (adv) in a quick way

hurried (adj); hurry (v)

**in tears** (phrase) crying

**label** (n) a piece of paper on something to give information about it

label (v)

**offend** (v) to make someone angry or upset by saying something unkind

offence (n)

**raisin** (n) a dried grape

**scold** (v) to speak angrily to someone because they have done something wrong; to criticize

**shrink** (v) to become or make something smaller in size

**sip** (n) a small amount of a drink

sip (v)

**slip** (v) slide accidentally and fall

slip (n)

**slippery** (adj) difficult to hold or walk on because it is wet or greasy



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lewis Carroll (1832-1898) was a British writer who is famous for his children's fiction. He was also a mathematician and photographer. His real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, and he used Lewis Carroll as his pen name.

Carroll was the third of eleven children in his family. When he was a child, he made up games and wrote stories and poems to entertain his brothers and sisters. Some of these stories and poems were similar to his later published works.

In 1854, he received a degree in Mathematics from the Christ Church College, and he spent the next 26 years teaching mathematics there. During these years, Carroll continued writing stories and poems. His first published work was a romantic poem called *Solitude*, which appeared in a magazine in 1856. In 1865, he published his first story *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. The book was such a great success that Carroll published a second volume called *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There* in 1872. In the following years, he wrote a poem called *The Hunting of the Snark* (1876) and a story called *Sylvie and Bruno* (1895).

### Sources

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