

## ***Alice's Adventures In Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll**

Age 7-9

### **Reasons for selection and synopsis**

*Mix equal parts creativity, bewilderment, and complete nonsense and you have Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. On a day that begins like any other, Alice notices a rabbit—a rabbit with a pocket watch. She chases after it and stumbles down a hole... and keeps falling and falling and falling. That's when things start to get weird. She encounters a bizarre cast of characters — the Mad Hatter, the March Hare, a pipe-smoking caterpillar, the Pigeon, a Duchess, the Cook, and the decapitation-happy Queen of Hearts. It's an adventure of completely intolerable logic, as witty as it is completely insane.*

### **Before reading...**

Ask the children to look at the front cover. What do you think the book will be about? What things can you see on the front cover?

What sort of story will it be? Who might enjoy it?

Now read the blurb – were any of your predictions correct?

Do you think it's a good idea to go down rabbit holes? Why?

## Chapter One

Vocabulary	<p>What is a daisy chain?</p> <p>Define 'remarkable'.</p> <p>What is a curtsey?</p> <p>What does 'alas' mean?</p>
Infer	<p>Why was Alice growing tired?</p> <p>Why is the rabbit flustered?</p> <p>Find one piece of evidence that Alice is sensible and one piece of evidence that she is not.</p> <p>What does Alice mean when she says she will think nothing of tumbling down the stairs after this?</p> <p>Do you think it's a magic table? Why?</p> <p>Why doesn't Alice drink the potion initially? Why does she change her mind?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict what will happen after Alice has finished eating the cake.</p>
Explain	<p>Do you think it was a good idea to follow the rabbit? Why?</p>
Retrieve	<p>What does Alice like her books to have in them?</p> <p>What does the rabbit look like?</p> <p>What does the rabbit take out of its waistcoat?</p> <p>What did Alice land on?</p> <p>What was on the table?</p> <p>What was through the door?</p> <p>What happens when Alice drinks the potion? Why can't she get the key any more?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise this first chapter in fewer than forty words.</p>

## Chapter Two

Vocabulary	What does it mean to open out like a telescope? What is 'the carrier'? Define 'hastily'. What does 'queer' mean? Define 'inquisitively'.
Infer	Why does Alice say goodbye to her feet? Why does Alice tell herself off? What surprises Alice about the glove fitting her? Why does the mouse become scared? Why does the mouse not like Alice yet?
Predict	Predict what the mouse will tell Alice.
Explain	How do the pictures contribute to meaning here?
Retrieve	How tall does Alice grow? Who is the rabbit keeping waiting? What does the rabbit drop? Which child does Alice believe she's turned into? How does Alice shrink again? What does Alice find herself in a pool of? What other animals are in the pool?
Summarise	Summarise the events of this chapter in fewer than thirty words.

### Chapter Three

Vocabulary	Define 'assembled'. What is a consultation? Define 'melancholy'.
Infer	Why is Alice anxious to get dry? Why does Alice want to laugh? Why does Alice get confused about the mouse's story when he says that it's long? Why do all the animals leave Alice?
Predict	Predict where the footprints are coming from.
Explain	How does Carroll create humour in this chapter?
Retrieve	What does the dodo suggest to get them dry? Who won the race? What prize does Alice give to everyone? Why does Alice wish Dinah was there?
Summarise	Summarise the mouse's story (or the bits you heard) in fewer than thirty words.

## Chapter Four

Vocabulary	Define 'good-naturedly'. Define 'feeble'. Why is the voice feeble? What is 'coaxing'? What is a hookah?
Infer	Why does the rabbit call her Mary Ann? Alice 'almost wishes' she hadn't gone down the rabbit hole. What does this tell us? Why does Alice eat the cakes? Why does Alice run away? Why is Alice scared of the puppy?
Predict	Predict how the caterpillar will react to Alice.
Explain	Why do you think Alice drank the bottle? Draw the caterpillar from the description.
Retrieve	What will happen if the rabbit doesn't find his belongings? Where was the bottle Alice saw? What happened when Alice drank the potion? Why can't the rabbit get into his house? Who is Bill? What is on top of the mushroom?
Summarise	Summarise Alice's time in the White Rabbit's house in fewer than thirty words.

## Chapter Five

Vocabulary	Define 'languid'. What does 'contemptuously' mean? Why is the caterpillar feeling this way? Define 'incessantly'. Define 'contradicted'.
Infer	Why is Alice feeling shy? Do you think the caterpillar was helpful? Why? Why does Alice's chin hit her foot? Why is the pigeon so angry? Why does Alice make herself smaller at the end of the chapter?
Predict	Predict who is in the house.
Explain	Why does the author italicise 'you'?
Retrieve	How does Alice say she has changed? What size does Alice want to be? What size is she currently? What does the mushroom do? What does the pigeon mistake Alice for?
Summarise	Sum up what the poem 'You Are Old Father William' means in less than forty words.

## Chapter Six

Vocabulary	<p>What is a 'footman in livery'?</p> <p>Define 'entangled'.</p> <p>What does 'flinging' tell us about the duchess?</p> <p>Define 'giddy'.</p>
Infer	<p>Why does Alice burst out laughing?</p> <p>Why would it be useless for Alice to knock?</p> <p>How does Alice know there is too much pepper in the soup?</p> <p>Find evidence that the duchess doesn't care for the baby?</p> <p>Why does Alice believe the cat should be treated with respect?</p> <p>Why does Alice pick the March Hare?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict what the march hare will say to Alice.</p>
Explain	<p>Do you think Alice is mad? Why?</p>
Retrieve	<p>What sort of face did the footman have?</p> <p>What is the invitation for?</p> <p>What nearly hits the footman?</p> <p>What is unusual about the cat?</p> <p>What does the duchess command the cook to do (and is ignored)?</p> <p>Why does Alice put the baby down?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise this chapter in fewer than twenty words.</p>

## Chapter Seven

Vocabulary	Define 'indignantly'. What does 'civil' mean? Define 'triumphantly'.
Infer	Why was Alice immediately offended? Find evidence that the Mad Hatter is rude. Which song is the one the Hatter is singing, reminiscent of? Why does the Hatter want to hear a story? Why did Alice leave?
Predict	Predict what will happen next.
Explain	Would you want to go to the Hatter's tea party? Why?
Retrieve	Where was the table for the tea party? What day of the month does Alice say it is? Why might she have gotten it wrong? What is different about the Hatter's watch? When did the watch stop working? How does the Hatter get a clean cup? What did the people in the story draw?
Summarise	Summarise the tea party in fewer than thirty words.



## Chapter Eight

Vocabulary	<p>What is 'oblong'?</p> <p>What is a knave?</p> <p>What does it mean to say something 'severely'? What impression does this give you of the Queen of Hearts?</p> <p>What is croquet?</p> <p>Define 'impertinent'.</p>
Infer	<p>How did the gardeners get their names?</p> <p>Why does the Queen want to cut Alice's head off?</p> <p>Why was the game of croquet considered curious?</p> <p>Why doesn't Alice initially speak to the Cheshire Cat?</p> <p>Why do they argue about beheading the cat?</p>
Predict	<p>Predict how the return of the Duchess will affect the story.</p>
Explain	<p>How does Carroll create humour in this chapter?</p>
Retrieve	<p>What was by the entrance to the garden?</p> <p>What were the gardeners doing?</p> <p>Who was the back of the procession?</p> <p>Why is the Duchess under sentence of execution?</p> <p>When did Alice notice the Cheshire Cat?</p>
Summarise	<p>Summarise the Queen of Hearts in one word and explain your choice of words.</p>

## Chapter Nine

Vocabulary	Define 'affectionately'. What is a 'moral'? What is 'quarrelling'? Define 'mock' in the context of this chapter. Define 'dull' in the context of this chapter.
Infer	Find and copy evidence that Alice isn't particularly interested in being a duchess. Why do you think the duchess looks for the moral of things? Why does the duchess's voice go low and weak? Why does Alice pity the mock turtle? What is uglification?
Predict	Predict what the mock turtle will tell Alice next.
Explain	Explain the 'lesson' pun.
Retrieve	What did Alice think might have put the duchess in a bad mood last time? Why didn't Alice like the duchess being so close? Why won't the duchess put her arm around Alice? What does Alice say mustard is? Why does the duchess run off? Who takes Alice to see the mock turtle?
Summarise	Summarise the mock turtle in one word and explain your choice of word.

## Chapter Ten

Vocabulary	What is a 'figure' in the dance? What does it mean to be obliged to do something?
Infer	How badly is the mock turtle crying? Why doesn't Alice mention tasting the lobster? What is the song about? Why didn't Alice dare disobey?
Predict	Predict what will happen next.
Explain	Explain the purpose of this chapter.
Retrieve	What is the lobster quadrille? Where has Alice seen whiting? How are shoes made shiny under the sea? Why does Alice struggle to recite the poem?
Summarise	Explain the lobster quadrille more succinctly.

## Chapter Eleven

Vocabulary	What is a juror? Define 'accusation'. What is a verdict? Define 'memorandum'.
Infer	Why did Alice know what everything was? Why can't the jury make their verdict straight away? Why is the hatter allowed to go? Why do you think the cook refuses to give her evidence? How was the cook able to get away?
Predict	Predict who stole the tarts.
Explain	What is the effect of the cliffhanger at the end of this chapter?
Retrieve	Where was the knave? What was on the dish? Why did the jurors write down their names? Who is being accused of stealing the tarts? What sensation does Alice begin to feel? Who is the last witness?
Summarise	Summarise the court hearings so far in fewer than thirty words.

## Chapter Twelve

Vocabulary	Define 'vague'. Define 'hastily'. What does an 'atom of meaning' mean? What does it mean to hold your tongue?
Infer	Why does the king turn pale? Why does Alice offer sixpence for explaining the letter? What causes Alice to wake up? Why do you think Alice's sister had the same dream?
Predict	Predict what would happen in a sequel to this story.
Explain	Did you like the ending? Why?
Retrieve	How does Alice delay the trial? How much does Alice say she knows about it? How does the queen attack Alice?
Summarise	Summarise the whole story in fewer than 100 words.