

Alice in Wonderland

WORKSHEET A

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (often shortened to *Alice in Wonderland*) is generally thought of as one of the greatest books for children in the history of English literature, and has also been enjoyed by many older readers. It was written by the British writer Lewis Carroll (a pseudonym: his real name was Charles Dodgson) in 1865, but still seems original today and was recently made into a successful movie by director Tim Burton.

The story of *Alice in Wonderland* takes place in a strange fantasy world that is sometimes amusing and sometimes a little frightening. It contains all sorts of strange characters, including many talking animals. Few events seem to follow any logic, many characters talk in an odd way or ask questions that are impossible to answer, and nothing feels like normal reality.

The main character is Alice, a seven-year-old girl. One summer day she is sitting by a river with her sister when she sees something very strange: a white rabbit wearing a coat and a watch. Curious, she runs after the rabbit and arrives at a large rabbit hole in the ground, which she decides to enter. She starts falling down the hole, and when she gets to the bottom she finds herself in a different world.

Among the many bizarre things Alice finds in this different world are a liquid that makes her very small when she drinks it; a talking caterpillar sitting on a mushroom; a smiling cat that disappears but leaves its smile behind; a tea party that never finishes; a game of croquet where the mallets are flamingoes and the balls are hedgehogs; and a playing card, the Queen of Hearts, that has come to life and has a very bad temper.

At the end of the story Alice is suddenly back by the river again, with her sister telling her she has been asleep: we then understand that her strange journey was a dream.

One big difference between the book and Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland* is that in the recent movie Alice is nineteen, not seven. The movie also has some characters and events that are not from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* but instead from the sequel that Lewis Carroll wrote in 1871: *Through the Looking-Glass*.

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WORKSHEET **B**

Exercise 1

Here are some simple definitions for words that appear in the text on Worksheet A. Find the words they refer to and fill in the blanks.

1. **o _ _** (adjective): strange or unusual
2. **h _ _ _** (noun): a space in the surface of the ground
3. **r _ _ l _ _ _** (noun): the way things really are, not what you imagine or think they could be
4. If there is **l _ _ _ c** (noun) in an idea, an explanation, or a situation, it is possible to understand it because it seems reasonable.
5. Someone who has a bad **_ _ _ p _ r** (noun) easily becomes angry.
6. **_ _ q _ e _** (noun): a book, play, movie, etc., that continues the story of an earlier one
7. **c _ _ _ _ _ _ er** (noun): a person (or sometimes an animal) in a book, movie, etc.
8. If you **_ e _ _ e** something or someone **_ _ h _ nd** (phrasal verb), you don't take it or them with you when you go somewhere, possibly because you forget.
9. **_ _ z _ _ _ e** (adjective): very strange or unusual
10. **a _ us _ _ _** (adjective): funny
11. **p _ _ _ d _ _ _ _** (noun): a name that someone uses that is not their real name, especially for writing a book
12. **_ ro _ _ _ t** (noun): a game played on grass in which players hit balls through curved pieces of metal called hoops using long wooden hammers
13. **p _ _ y _ _ _ _ rd** (noun): one of a set or "deck" of small rectangular pieces of stiff paper used in games. (A deck contains 52 of these pieces of paper, and they are divided into four groups or suits: clubs, diamonds, hearts, and spades.)
14. **c _ _ _ _ o l _ f _** (phrase): to start being alive
15. **_ _ _ l _ t** (noun): a long wooden hammer used to hit balls in the game of croquet

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Team A

Here are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A, but what are the questions? When you have prepared the questions, Team B will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
 2. It takes place in a fantasy world.
 3. Its smile
 4. Charles
 5. The Queen of Hearts has a bad temper.
 6. She becomes very small.
 7. She is seven.
 8. They are (used as) balls in a game of croquet.
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Team B

Here are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A, but what are the questions? When you have prepared the questions, Team A will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. 1865
2. On a mushroom
3. He wrote *Through the Looking-Glass* / the sequel to *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.
4. They are (used as) mallets in a game of croquet.
5. Tim Burton
6. Her sister.
7. She is nineteen.
8. They ask questions that are impossible to answer.