

Down the Rabbit Hole

Getting Started

- * Each one of us has his/her own world of fantasy, a wonderland to escape to from the everyday routine of daily life. In such a dream-like imaginary world one lives ones dreams. Perhaps a few of you could share your own special wonderland with your classmates.

'Down the Rabbit Hole', adapted from the book Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (commonly shortened to Alice in Wonderland) is one of the most popular and endearing children's fantasies in English language. The story is about a girl named Alice who goes down the rabbit hole into a fantasy world. Here she meets peculiar creatures with human-like qualities.

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do. Once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it. 'And what is the use of a book,' thought Alice, 'without pictures or conversation?'

So she was wondering (as well as she could, for the hot day made her feel very sleepy), whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.



There was nothing so very remarkable in that; nor did Alice think it so very much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself, 'Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!' When she thought it over afterwards, it occurred to her that she ought to have wondered at this, but at the time it all seemed quite natural. But when the Rabbit actually took a watch out of its waistcoat-pocket, and looked at it, and then hurried on, Alice **started to her feet**. For it **flashed** across her mind that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it!



Burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit hole under the hedge. In another moment, down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again.

The rabbit hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then **dipped** suddenly down. It was so sudden that Alice could not stop herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well.

Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly, for she had plenty of time as she went down to look about her and to wonder what was going to happen next.

First, she tried to look down and make out what she was coming to, but it was too dark to see anything. Then she looked at the sides of the well, and noticed that they were filled with cupboards and bookshelves. Here and there, she saw maps and pictures hung upon pegs.

She took down a jar from one of the shelves as she passed, it was labelled 'ORANGE **MARMALADE**', but to her great disappointment it was empty. She did not like to drop the jar for fear of hurting somebody, so she managed to put it into one of the cupboards as she fell past it.

'Well!' thought Alice to herself, 'After such a fall as this, I shall think nothing of tumbling down stairs! How brave they'll all think me at home! Why, I wouldn't say anything about it, even if I fell off the top of the house!'

Down, down, down. Would the fall NEVER come to an end!

‘I wonder how many miles I’ve fallen by this time?’ she said aloud. ‘I must be getting somewhere near the centre of the earth. Let me see: that would be four thousand miles down, I think—’ (for, you see, Alice had learnt several things of this sort in her lessons in the school, and though this was not a VERY good opportunity for showing off her knowledge, as there was no one to listen to her, still it was good practice to say it over) ‘—yes, that’s about the right distance—but then I wonder what Latitude or Longitude I’ve got to?’ (Alice had no idea what Latitude was, or Longitude either, but thought they were nice grand words to say.)

Down, down, down. There was nothing else to do, so Alice soon began talking again.

‘Dinah’ll miss me very much tonight, I should think!’ (Dinah was the cat.) ‘I hope they’ll remember her saucer of milk at tea-time. Dinah my dear! I wish you were down here with me! There are no mice in the air, I’m afraid, but you might catch a bat, and that’s very like a mouse, you know. But do cats eat bats, I wonder?’



And here Alice began to get rather sleepy, and went on saying to herself, in a dreamy sort of way, ‘Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats?’ and sometimes, ‘Do bats eat cats?’ for, you see, as she couldn’t answer either question, it didn’t much matter which way she put it.

She felt that she was **dozing** off, and had just begun to dream that she was walking hand in hand with Dinah, and saying to her very **earnestly**, ‘Now, Dinah, tell me the truth: did you ever eat a bat?’ when suddenly, thump! thump! down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the fall was over.

—Lewis Carroll

About the Author

Lewis Carroll (1832–1898) was the pseudonym of Reverend Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. Born in England, he was a writer, mathematician, Anglican deacon (Minister of the Catholic Church) and a photographer. The sequel to Alice in Wonderland is Through the Looking Glass (1872) and it was also immensely popular.

Chapter - 2

Down the Rabbit Hole

Lewis Carroll

A. Words Meanings

Started to her feet - jumped
flashed - passed
burning with curiosity - filled with a strong
desire to know something
dipped - to sink
marmalade - a preserve made from oranges
dozing - to sleep lightly
earnestly - very seriously.

B. Answer the following questions.

1. Why did Alice feel bored and sleepy while keeping her sister company?

→ Alice felt very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank. She had nothing to do to engage herself. The book which her ~~sister~~^{sister} was reading, had no pictures or conversations in it, thus failed to interest Alice. Moreover the day was very hot. All these reasons made Alice to feel bored and sleepy while keeping her sister company.

2. What had 'seemed quite natural' when Alice should have wondered at it?

→ Alice, while sitting by her sister on the bank, suddenly saw a White-Rabbit with pink eyes run close by her. She heard the Rabbit say to itself, 'Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!'

These activities of the Rabbit had 'seemed quite natural' when Alice should have wondered at it.

3. Why did Alice seem to have 'plenty of time' as she went down the rabbit hole?

→ When Alice went down the rabbit hole, she could not stop herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well. Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly.

So, Alice seemed to have 'plenty of time' as she went down the rabbit hole.

Home Work.

1. Read the extract and answer the following questions.

'Once or twice she had peeped
conversations in it.'

- i) Who is referred to as 'she'?
- ii) Where had 'she' peeped?
- iii) Where was 'she' at that moment and with whom?

To be continued in next English 2 class.

1 JUNE 2020 → MONDAY → ENGLISH 2
STAY HOME, STAY SAFE.