

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

By Lewis Carroll

CHAPTER 1 :

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE

Adapted for The Ten Minute Tutor by: Debra Treloar

Alice had sat on the grass next to her sister until she was tired. Once or twice she had looked at the book her sister held in her hand, but there were no pictures in it, "and what is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures?"

She was feeling sleepy and bored and wondered, if it was worth her while to get up and pick some daisies to make a daisy chain.



Just then a white rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her. This was not such a strange thing, nor did Alice think it strange to hear the Rabbit say,

"Oh dear! Oh, dear! I shall be late!"

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But when the Rab-bit took a watch out of his pock-et, and looked at it and then ran on, Al-ice leapt to her feet, for she knew that this was the very first time she had ever seen a Rab-bit with a watch.



She jumped up and ran to get a look at it, and was just in time to see it pop down a large rab-bit hole near a hedge.

As fast as she could go, Al-ice went down the hole af-ter it, and did not once stop to think, how in the world she was going to get out.

The hole went straight on for some time and then turned down with a sharp bend, so sharp, that Al-ice had no time to think to stop, un-til she found her-self fall-ing in what seemed a deep well. She must not have moved fast, or the well must have been quite deep, for it took her a long time to go down. As she went, she had time to look at the strange things she passed. First she tried to look down and see what was there, but it was too dark. Then she looked at the sides of the well and saw that they were lined with book-shelves; here and

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there she saw maps hung on pegs.

She took down a jar from one of the shelves as she passed. On it was the word... 'JAM', but there was no jam in it, so she put it back on one of the shelves as she fell past it.

"Well," thought Alice to her-self, "af-ter a fall like this, I shall not mind fall-ing down the stairs at all. How brave they'll think I am at home! Why, I wouldn't say a thing if I fell off the top of the house." (Which I dare say was quite true.)

Down, down, down. Would the fall nev-er come to an end? "I won-der," she said, "how far I have come af-ter all this time. Would-n't it be strange, if I should fall right through the earth and come out where peo-ple walk with their feet up and their heads down?"

Down, down, down. "Di-nah will miss me to-night," Alice said. (Di-nah was her cat).

"I hope they'll think to give her milk at tea-time. Di-nah, my dear! I wish you were down here with me! There are no mice in the air, but you might catch a bat, and that's a lot like a mouse, you know. But do cats eat bats?"

And here Alice must have gone to sleep, for she dreamed that she walked hand in hand with Di-nah, and just as she

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asked her, "Now, Di-nah, tell me the truth, do you eat bats?"

All at once, Thump! Thump! Down she came on a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the long fall was o-ver. Al-ice was not a bit hurt, but at once jumped to her feet. She looked up, but it was dark.

In the dis-tance at the end of a long hall in front of her the white rab-bit was still in sight. There was no time to lose, so off Al-ice went af-ter it, and was just in time to hear it say, "Oh, my ears, how late it is!" Then it was out of sight.

She found she was in a long hall with a low roof, from which hung a row of lan-terns.



There were doors on all sides, but when Al-ice had been all a-round and tried each one, she found that they were all locked. She walked back and forth and tried to think how she was go-ing to get out.

At last she came to a small ta-ble made of glass. On it was a ti-ny key of gold, and Al-ice's first thought was that this might

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be the key to one of the doors in the hall, but when she had tried the key in each lock, she found the locks were too large or the key was too small... it did not fit any of them.

But when she went round to the hall once more, she came to a low curtain, which she had not seen at first, and when she drew the curtain back, she found a small door, not much more than a foot high.

She tried the key in the lock, and to her great joy it fitted! Alice found that the door led to a hall the size of a rat hole; she knelt down and looked through it to a garden full of flowers. How she longed to get out of that dark hall and near those flowers, but she could not get her head to fit through the door.

"Even if my head would go through," thought Alice, "it would be of no use, for the rest of me would still be too large to go through. Oh, how I wish I could be smaller! I think I could, if I knew how."

There seemed to be no use waiting by the small door, so she went back to the table, hoping she might find a key to one of the larger doors, or maybe a book that would show her how to grow small.

This time she found a small bottle on it,

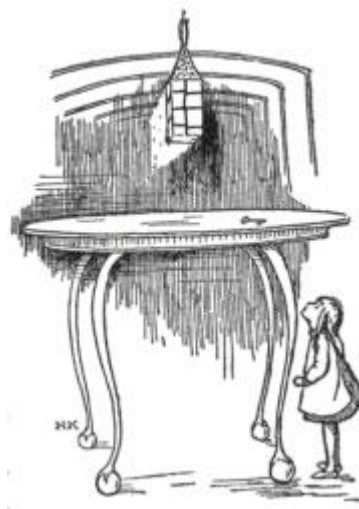
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("which I am sure was not here be-fore," said Al-ice), and tied a-round the neck of the bot-tle was a tag with the words 'DRINK ME' prin-ted on it.

It was al-right to say, "Drink me," but Al-ice was too smart; "No, I'll look first," she said, "and see if it's marked 'poi-son' or not," for she had been taught, if you drink from a bot-tle marked 'poi-son,' it is sure to make you sick. There was no such mark on it, so she tas-ted it, and found it nice, (it had, in fact, a taste of pie, ice-cream, roast duck, and hot toast) so she drank it down.

"How strange I feel," said Al-ice. "I am sure I am not as big as I was be-fore!"

And she was right; she was now not quite a foot high, and her face lit up at the thought that she was now the right size to go through the small door and get out to that love-ly gar-den.



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Poor Alice! When she reached the door she found that she had left the key on the table, and when she went back for it, she found that she could not reach it.

She could see it through the glass, and she tried her best to climb up one of the legs of the table, but it was too slip-per-y, and when she was tired from try-ing, she sat down and cried.

"Come, there's no point in cry-ing like that!" Alice said to her-self as stern-ly as she could. "I tell you, stop it at once!"

Soon she spot-ted a small glass box sit-ting on the floor. She looked in to it and found a tiny cake with the words 'EAT ME,' marked in grapes.

"Well, I'll eat it," said Alice, "and if it makes me grow tall, I can reach the key, and if it makes me shrink, I can creep un-der the door; so I'll get out of here some way." So she set to work and soon ate all the cake.



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