

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

CHAPTER 4 :

THE RABBIT SENDS A BILL

Adapted for The Ten Minute Tutor by: Debra Treloar

It was the White Rab-bit who trot-ted back a-gain. It looked from side to side as it went, as if it had lost some-thing. Then Al-ice heard it say to it-self, "The Duch-ess! The Duch-ess!



Oh, my dear paws! She'll get my head cut off as sure as rats are rats! Where can I have lost them?" Al-ice guessed at once that he was in search of the fan and the pair of white kid gloves.

So, like the good girl that she was, she went to look for them, but could not find them. All things seemed to have changed since her swim in the pool.

The great hall with the glass ta-ble and the lit-tle door were all gone.

Soon the Rab-bit saw Al-ice and called out to her, "Why, Ann, what are you do-ing here? Run home at once, and fetch me a pair of gloves and a fan! Quick-ly, now!"

Al-ice was in such a fright that she ran off and did not stop to say who it was.

"He must think I am his maid," she said to her-self as she ran.

"What will he say when he finds out who I am! But, I must find his fan and gloves and take them to the rab-bit."

As she said this, she came to a small neat house. On the door was a bright brass plate with the name **W. Rab-bit** on it.

"How strange that I am do-ing things for a Rab-bit!

I guess Di-nah will send me to do jobs for her next!"

By this time, she had run up the stairs to a ti-dy room with a ta-ble near the wall. On it was a fan and two or three pairs of small white gloves.

She picked them up, and turned to leave the room, when she saw a small bot-tle close by.

There was no label on it this time with the words "Drink me," but Alice held it to her lips.

"I know I may change in some way, if I eat or drink anything. I'll just see what it does and hope it will make me grow large again. I am quite tired of this size," Alice said to herself.

It did as she had wished, for in a short time her head pressed against the roof so hard that she could-n't stand up straight.

She quickly put down the bottle and said, "That is as much as I need... I hope I won't grow any more... As it is, I can't get out the door... I wish I had-n't drunk so much!"



But it was too late to wish that!

She grew and grew, until she had to kneel down on the floor. Then there was no room and she had to lie down. She grew and grew until she had to put one arm out the window and one foot up the chimney.

"Now I don't fit any more," she said to herself.

There seemed no chance now that she would ever get out of the room.

"I wish I was at home," thought poor Al-ice, "where I would-n't change so much, and where I did-n't have to do things for mice and rab-bits. I wish I had-n't gone down that rab-bit hole... and yet... it's strange, you know, this sort of life!

When I used to read fair-y tales, I thought they were just made up by some one, and now here I am in one my-self. When I grow up I'll write a book a-bout these strange things... but I feel grown up now," she added in a sad tone, "at least... there's no room to grow in this house an-y more."

She heard a voice out-side and stopped to list-en.

"Ann! Ann!" said the voice, "fetch me my gloves, quick!" Then came the sound of feet on the stairs.

Al-ice knew it was the Rab-bit and that it had come back to look for her.

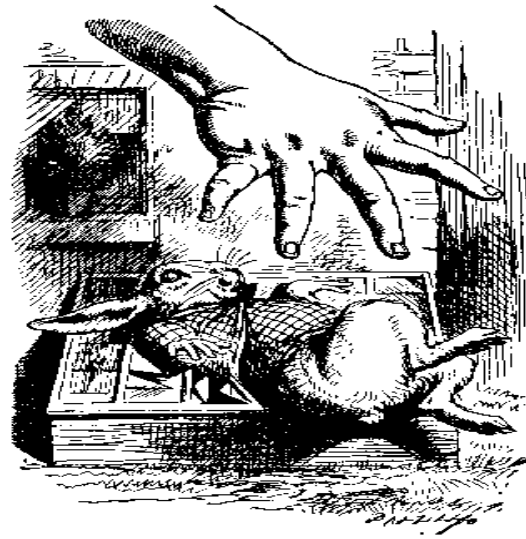
She shook with fear till she also shook the house.

Poor thing! She did-n't know that she was now more than ten times big-ger than the Rab-bit, and that she did not need to be a-fraid of it.

Soon the Rab-bit came to the door and tried to come in, but Al-ice's arm pushed a-gainst it so hard the door would not move.

Alice heard it say, "Then I'll go round and get in at the win-dow."

"No you won't!" thought Alice and she wait-ed un-til she heard the Rab-bit quite near the win-dow. She spread out her hand and made a grab in the air.



She did not get hold of it, but she heard a squeal and a fall.

Next came an an-gry voice... the Rab-bit's... "Pat! Pat! Where are you?"

Then a voice, which was new to her said, "I'm here! Dig-ging for apples, yer hon-our!"

"Dig-ging for ap-ples, in-deed!" said the Rab-bit. "Here! Come and help me out of this! Now, tell me, Pat, what's that in the win-dow?"

"Sure, it's an arm, yer hon-our"

"An arm, you goose! Who e-ver saw one that size? Why, it fills the whole win-dow!"

"Sure it does, yer hon-our; but it's just an arm, all the same."

"Well, it should not be there; go and take it out!"

For a long time they seemed to stand still, but now and then Alice could hear a few words in a low voice, such as, "Sure I don't like it, yer hon-our, not at all, not at all!"

"Do as I tell you, you cow-ard!"

So, Alice spread out her hand again and made another grab in the air. This time there were two little squeals.

"I should like to know what they'll do next! As to their threats to pull me out, I wish they could. I don't want to stay in here."

She wait-ed for some time, but all was still; then came the noise of small cart wheels and voi-ces, which said;

"Where is the oth-er lad-der? Why, I only brought one;

Bill's got the oth-er.

Bill, bring it here, lad!

Here, put 'em up at here.

No, tie 'em first... they don't reach near-ly as high as they should yet... Oh, they'll do.

Here, Bill! Catch hold of this rope... Will the roof hold?

Mind that loose roof tile... Oh no, here it comes!

Look out! (Then a loud crash!)

...Now who did that? thought Al-ice. It was Bill, I guess...

Who's to go down the chim-ney?

No, I won't! You do it!... I won't then!..

Bill's got to go down...

Here, Bill, you've got to go down the chim-ney!"

"So, Bill's got to come down, has he?" said Al-ice to her-self.

"They seemed to make Bill do all the work. I would not want to be in Bill's place. The fire-place is very small, but I think I can move my leg to kick."

She drew her foot as far as she could, and wait-ed un-til she heard a small an-i-mal (she did not know what sort it was) come scratch! scratch! down the chim-ney quite close to her.

Then she said to her-self: "This is for Bill," and gave one sharp kick and wait-ed to see what would hap-pen next.

The first thing she heard was, "There goes Bill!" then the Rab-bit's voice, "Catch him, you by the fence!"

All was still, then more voices... "Hold up his head...

Mind now... Don't choke him...

How was it, old fel-low?

What sent you up so fast? Tell us all a-bout it!"

At last came a weak voice ("That's Bill," thought Al-ice),

"Well, I don't know... mind you, but I'm a bit too shocked to tell you... all I know is, a thing comes at me like a Jack-in-the-box, and up I go up like a rocket!"



"So you did, old fel-low," said the oth-ers.

"We must burn the house down," said the Rab-bit's voice, and Al-ice called out as loud as she could, "If you do, I'll set Di-nah on to you!"

At once all went qui-et, and Al-ice thought, "What will they do next? If they had an-y sense, they'd take the roof off."

Then she heard the Rab-bit say, "One load will do to start with."

"A load of what?" thought Al-ice, but she did not have to wait long, for some small stones flew in at the win-dow. Some of them hit her in the face.

"I will stop this," she said to her-self, and shout-ed out,

"You stop that, at once!" And a-gain it went qui-et..

Alice saw the stones had all changed into small cakes as they lay on the floor, and a bright idea came to her.

"If I eat one of these cakes," she said, "it may make me change in my size; and as it can't make me bigger, I hope I will change back to the size I used to be."

So she ate one of the cakes and was glad to see that she shrank quite fast. Soon she was so small, she could get through the door. So she ran out of the house and found quite a crowd of animals and birds in the yard.

The poor lizard, Bill, was in the middle of the group, held up by two guinea pigs. They gave him something to drink out of a bottle. They all made a rush at Alice, as soon as she came out, but she ran off as hard as she could, and was soon safe in a thick wood.

"The first thing I've got to do," said Alice to herself, as she walked in the wood, "is grow to my right size again. Then the next thing is to find my way to that lovely garden."

It was a fine plan, no doubt, but the hard thing was that she did not know how to do it. As she looked round the trees, she heard a small bark just over her head from a branch that made her look up.

A great big pup-py looked down at her with large round eyes. It stretched out one paw and tried to touch her. "Poor thing!" said Al-ice in a kind tone.

She tried hard to show that she wanted to be its friend, but she was wor-ried in case it would eat her up.

Al-ice could not think what to do next, so she picked up a stick and held it out to the pup-py.

It jumped from the tree with a yelp of joy to play with it.

Then Al-ice hid round be-hind a large plant that stood near, but the pup-py soon found her and made a dash for the stick a-gain.

It tum-bled head o-ver heels in its hur-ry to get hold of it.

Al-ice felt that it was like hav-ing a game with a horse and thought at a-ny mo-ment she might be crushed un-der its big feet.

At last, to her joy, it seemed to grow tired of the game and sat down with its tongue out of its mouth and its big eyes half shut.



This seemed like a good time for Alice to get a-way, so she ran un-til she was quite tired and out of breath and the pup-py's bark sound-ed quite faint.

"What a dear pup-py it was," said Al-ice, as she stopped to rest and fan her-self with a leaf. "I would love to teach it tricks, if... if I was the right size to do it! Oh dear! I've got to grow a-gain! Let me see... how am I to do it? I guess I ought to eat or drink some-thing, but I don't know what!"

Al-ice looked all round her at the blades of grass, the flow-ers, the leaves, but could not see any thing that looked like the right thing to eat or drink to make her grow.

There was a large mush-room near her. It was a-bout the same height as she was and af-ter she had looked all a-round it, she thought she might as well look to see what was on top of it.

She stood up as tall as she could, and her eyes met those of a large blue cat-er-pil-lar that sat on top.



Its arms were fold-ed and it was smok-ing a strange pipe with a long stem that bent and curved round it like a hoop.