

Books by the Stack



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

When a young girl falls down a rabbit hole, she discovers a strange and interesting world with fantastical, mad characters as she tries to find her way back home

Why you'll like it: *Classic. Fantasy fiction. Amusing. Whimsical.*

About the Author: Charles Luthwidge Dodgson was born in Daresbury, England on January 27, 1832. He became a minister of the Church of England and a lecturer in mathematics at Christ Church College, Oxford. He was the author, under his own name, of *An Elementary Treatise on Determinants*, *Symbolic Logic*, and other scholarly treatises. He is better known by his pen name of Lewis Carroll. Using this name, he wrote *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*. He was also a pioneering photographer, and he took many pictures of young children, especially girls, with whom he seemed to empathize. He died on January 14, 1898. (Bowker Author Biography)

Questions for Discussion

1. What is significant about the title?
2. Discuss the type of humor in this story, and explain why it was appealing to children in Victorian times and why it remains appealing to adults and children today.
3. How does Lewis Carroll reveal character in *Alice in Wonderland*?
4. Describe the character of the Cheshire Cat and the role he plays in the story. Why do you think Carroll chose to make a cat the one character in Wonderland that is most helpful to Alice?
5. What are some themes and symbols in the story? How do they relate to the plot and characters?
6. When Alice first arrives in Wonderland, she insults everyone she speaks with, but eventually she learns how to talk to the animals without insulting them. Discuss how these interactions mirror Alice's real life.
7. What makes *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* a coming-of-age story? Describe the ways in which Alice changes or matures over the course of the novel. What examples demonstrate her transition from childhood to the early stages of adulthood.
8. Why do you think Carroll chose to make the characters and situations in Wonderland illogical and deliberately misleading? Describe the tactics that Alice uses to cope with the bizarre things she encounters there.
9. Explain the significance of Alice's plunge down the rabbit-hole? How can the rabbit-hole be understood in metaphorical terms? What does it symbolize?
10. When Alice first arrives in Wonderland, she finds herself in a hallway. All of the large doors in the hallway are locked and the only door for which she has a key is too small for her to fit through. Explain the symbolic significance of Alice's situation here. What do the doors represent?

11. At several points during the story, Alice finds herself questioning her own identity. What causes her to do so? Why is she confused about her identity throughout much of the novel?
12. Describe the Caucus-Race. How does Carroll use it to satirize political races?
13. What was the primary purpose of the story?

(Questions from the Prestwick House and ThoughtCo.)



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