

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read each passage. Circle one answer (A, B, C or D). Complete the paragraph at the end.

01 An ordinary afternoon

Alice was sitting beside her sister on the riverbank, feeling bored. Her sister was reading a book, but Alice could not see any pictures or conversations in it. The hot afternoon made her sleepy, and she wondered whether making a chain of daisies would be worth the effort. Then a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

Why does Alice find her sister's book uninteresting?

- A. It tells a story she already knows.
- B. It has no pictures or conversations.
- C. It contains too many unfamiliar words.
- D. It is about making daisy chains.

02 A rabbit with a watch

The Rabbit said that he was going to be late, but Alice hardly wondered at hearing him speak. Then he took a watch out of his waistcoat pocket and looked at it. Alice had never seen a rabbit with a pocket or a watch before, and she suddenly became very curious. She ran after him and saw him disappear into a large rabbit-hole beneath a hedge.



What finally makes Alice jump up and follow the Rabbit?

- A. He asks her to help him find the time.
- B. He offers to take her to a garden.
- C. He drops something beside her sister.
- D. He takes a watch from his waistcoat pocket.

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03 Down the rabbit-hole

Alice went into the rabbit-hole without thinking about how she would get out again. The passage suddenly dropped away, and she began falling down what seemed like a very deep well. As she fell, she saw cupboards and bookshelves and picked up a jar labelled 'ORANGE MARMALADE', but it was empty. Rather than drop it and possibly hurt someone below, she placed it in a cupboard as she passed.

What does Alice's treatment of the empty jar suggest?

- A. She considers how her actions might affect someone else.
 - B. She wants to keep every object she finds.
 - C. She is certain that her sister is waiting below.
 - D. She thinks the jar will stop her falling.
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04 A very long fall

The fall lasted so long that Alice began wondering whether she might pass through the centre of the Earth. She thought about Dinah, her cat, and wondered whether cats ate bats. Growing sleepy, she mixed the question up and asked herself whether bats ate cats instead. At last she landed on a heap of sticks and dry leaves, completely unhurt.

How does the long fall affect Alice?

- A. She becomes increasingly angry with her sister.
 - B. She spends the whole time planning how to climb out.
 - C. She becomes sleepy and her thoughts grow muddled.
 - D. She forgets that she has a cat at home.
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05 The locked hall

Alice jumped up and followed the Rabbit along another passage. He disappeared around a corner, leaving her in a long hall lit by lamps. She tried the doors all around the hall, but every one was locked. On a small glass table she found a tiny golden key, yet it did not fit any of the large doors.

What problem does Alice face in the hall?

- A. She cannot see because the hall has no lights.
- B. She has lost the key somewhere in the passage.
- C. The Rabbit refuses to let her approach the doors.
- D. The doors are locked and the key does not fit them.

06 A glimpse of the garden

Behind a low curtain, Alice discovered a tiny door that she had missed before. This time the golden key fitted, and the door opened onto a narrow passage. Beyond it she could see a lovely garden full of bright flowers and cool fountains. She longed to enter, but even her head was too large to fit through the doorway.



Why can Alice still not enter the garden?

- A. Her body is too large for the doorway.
- B. She cannot find the right key.
- C. The garden is too dark to see.
- D. The curtain prevents the door from opening.

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07 DRINK ME

Back at the table, Alice found a little bottle with a label saying 'DRINK ME'. She did not drink at once, but first checked whether it was marked 'poison'. Finding no such warning, she tasted it and enjoyed its curious mixture of flavours. After she finished the bottle, she felt herself beginning to shrink.



Which action shows that Alice hesitates before drinking?

- A. She asks the Rabbit to taste the drink first.
- B. She checks the bottle for a warning.
- C. She pours half the drink onto the floor.
- D. She waits for her sister to arrive.

08 Small enough at last

Alice was now only about twenty-five centimetres tall. She was delighted because she seemed small enough to go through the little door. However, she waited a few minutes, worried that she might continue shrinking until she disappeared. When her size stopped changing, she decided to go to the garden.

Why does Alice wait before going to the garden?

- A. She wants the flowers to grow taller.
- B. She expects the Rabbit to return with her sister.
- C. She wants to make sure she has stopped shrinking.
- D. She is looking for another bottle to drink.

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09 The key is out of reach

At the little door, Alice realised that she had left the golden key on the table. She could see it through the glass, but she was now too short to reach it. She tried climbing a table leg, but it was too slippery, and she eventually sat down and cried. Alice told herself to stop crying, although she often found it difficult to follow her own advice.

How has shrinking created a new problem for Alice?

- A. She can fit through the door but cannot reach the key.
 - B. She can reach the key but cannot see the door.
 - C. She can climb the table but cannot find the garden.
 - D. She can open the large doors but cannot carry the bottle.
-

10 EAT ME

Under the table, Alice found a small cake with the words 'EAT ME' written in currants. She reasoned that growing larger would help her reach the key, while becoming even smaller might let her slip under the door. She ate a little and waited, but at first her size did not change. This ordinary result surprised her, because she had begun to expect strange things, and she soon finished the cake.

Why is Alice surprised when nothing happens at first?

- A. She remembers being told that the cake is poisonous.
 - B. She thinks ordinary cake should taste of marmalade.
 - C. She believes the Rabbit has already eaten the cake.
 - D. She has begun to expect unusual things to happen.
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11 Far from her feet

After finishing the cake, Alice began growing taller and taller. Her feet seemed so far away that she imagined sending them new boots as presents. At last her head struck the roof, and she was more than two and a half metres tall. She could now pick up the golden key easily, so she hurried back to the garden door.



What does Alice's growth allow her to do?

- A. Walk through the little door without bending.
- B. Return through the rabbit-hole to her sister.
- C. Reach the golden key on the table.
- D. See her feet more clearly than before.

12 A pool of tears

Although Alice had the key, she was much too large to enter the garden. Even lying on her side, she could only look through the doorway with one eye. She began crying again and told herself sternly to stop, but the tears kept coming. Because she was so enormous, her tears made a pool that spread halfway down the hall.

What causes the pool to form?

- A. Water escapes from a garden fountain.
- B. The enormous Alice cries a great deal.
- C. The bottle spills across the floor.
- D. Rain falls down the rabbit-hole.

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13 The Rabbit returns

The White Rabbit returned, carrying white gloves and a large fan. He was worrying that the Duchess would be angry because he had kept her waiting. Alice was desperate for help, but when she spoke, he jumped in fright, dropped his things and ran away. She picked up the gloves and fan and began fanning herself because the hall was hot.



How does the Rabbit react when Alice speaks to him?

- A. He calmly explains the way to the garden.
- B. He hands her the fan and invites her to follow.
- C. He asks her to wait for the Duchess.
- D. He drops his things and runs away in fright.

14 Am I still Alice?

As she fanned herself, Alice thought about how ordinary yesterday had been and how strange today was. She wondered whether she had changed during the night and asked, 'Who in the world am I?' She compared herself with other girls she knew, including Ada, whose hair was different, and Mabel, whom Alice thought knew less than she did. To work out whether she was still herself, Alice decided to test the things she used to know.

What does Alice think testing her knowledge might help her discover?

- A. Whether she is still the same person.
- B. Whether the Duchess likes clever children.
- C. Whether Ada has followed her underground.
- D. Whether the Rabbit has lost his watch.

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15 Lessons that go wrong

Alice tried multiplication and geography, but the answers came out wrong. When she attempted a familiar poem, strange words about a crocodile came out instead. She feared that these mistakes meant she had become Mabel, although she could not be sure. She imagined refusing to return home as someone she did not want to be, yet she also badly wanted company because she felt so alone.

Why do the mistakes upset Alice so much?

- A. She thinks her sister will make her repeat every lesson.
 - B. She worries that they mean she has become somebody else.
 - C. She wants to teach the Rabbit the correct poem.
 - D. She believes they have locked the garden door.
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16 The shrinking fan

Alice noticed that one of the Rabbit's tiny gloves now fitted her hand. She realised that she was shrinking again and that the fan was causing it. She quickly dropped the fan, stopping herself from growing smaller still. Unfortunately, the little door was shut again, and the golden key was back on the table, beyond her reach.

What first helps Alice notice that her size has changed again?

- A. The Rabbit tells her that she looks smaller.
 - B. Her head touches the roof a second time.
 - C. The Rabbit's tiny glove fits her hand.
 - D. The garden flowers disappear from view.
-

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17 Swimming in her own tears

As Alice complained about her troubles, her foot slipped and she fell into salt water. At first she thought that she had fallen into the sea. Then she realised that she was swimming in the pool of tears she had cried when she was enormous. She wished she had not cried so much and began trying to find a way out.

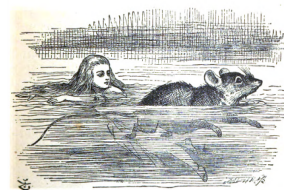


Why can Alice now swim in a pool made from her own tears?

- A. She is much smaller than she was when she cried them.
- B. The tears have turned the whole hall into an ocean.
- C. She has learned to swim without touching water.
- D. The Rabbit has made the pool deeper with his fan.

18 A Mouse in the water

Alice heard splashing and saw a Mouse swimming nearby. She thought it might be able to talk, since so many unusual things had happened, and asked it for help. When it did not answer, she tried a French sentence from her lessons, meaning 'Where is my cat?' The Mouse trembled with fright, and Alice quickly realised that mentioning a cat had been a mistake.



Why does Alice's French sentence frighten the Mouse?

- A. It sounds like an order to leave the pool.
- B. It suggests that Alice cannot swim.
- C. It reminds the Mouse of the Duchess.
- D. It mentions an animal that can threaten mice.

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19 A difficult conversation

Alice apologised, but then began describing how gentle and lovely her cat Dinah was. Without thinking, she added that Dinah was excellent at catching mice, which upset the Mouse again. Trying to change the subject, Alice praised a dog she knew, but mentioned that it killed rats. The Mouse began swimming away, and Alice realised that her attempt at friendly conversation had gone wrong.

What does Alice fail to consider when she praises the animals?

- A. The Mouse may already know their names.
- B. The Mouse may prefer stories about the garden.
- C. Animals she likes may seem dangerous to the Mouse.
- D. The Mouse may want to hear a longer description.

20 Towards the shore

Alice called gently after the Mouse and promised not to talk about cats or dogs again. It turned back and offered to explain its dislike of them once they reached the shore. By now, a Duck, a Dodo, a Lory, an Eaglet and other creatures had also fallen into the pool. Alice led the group as they all swam towards dry land.

What helps Alice repair her conversation with the Mouse?

- A. She proves that Dinah would never catch it.
- B. She promises to avoid the subjects that upset it.
- C. She asks the other creatures to argue with it.
- D. She offers to teach it another French sentence.

Who in the world am I?

Name: _____ Date: _____

In Chapter 2, Alice asks, ‘Who in the world am I?’ Write one paragraph explaining why she begins to doubt who she is. Use at least two details from Chapter 2. Then give your own view: do changes in someone’s body or memory make them a different person? Explain your answer.

Aim for about 80-120 words. You may begin: 'Alice begins to doubt who she is because...'

Adapted and abridged from Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Chapters 1 and 2. Illustrations by John Tenniel, supplied for this assignment.