



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland



About the Book

'Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting!'

Would you be surprised to see a white rabbit take a watch out of his waistcoat pocket? It certainly seems a remarkable sight to Alice and, full of curiosity, she follows him down a rabbit hole into a very strange world. She meets a disappearing cat, plays croquet with a bad-tempered queen, joins a mad hatter's tea party and becomes entangled in the case of some missing tarts. In Wonderland nothing but out-of-the-way things happen...

About the Author

Lewis Carroll's real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson and he was born in 1832, in Cheshire. As a young boy Lewis was excellent at reading and at school he showed himself to be a bright pupil. His natural gift for numbers led him to study maths at the University of Oxford. He did very well there although later on he admitted that he often didn't work hard enough. He suffered from a stammer but he was very good at mimicking people, telling stories and playing charades. After university, Lewis Carroll had a varied career. He continued living in his Oxford college teaching maths and writing books about mathematics, and he was ordained a church deacon, although he never became a priest. But he also pursued his love of writing stories and photography. As well as his Alice books he wrote many poems, articles and short stories and became a skilled photographer. He never married but he adored children and spent a lot of time with his young friends, playing with them and taking photographs.



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Who's Who

How many characters from *Alice in Wonderland* do you know?

See if you can work out which of these descriptions describes the following characters:

Alice

Utterly nutty, full of nonsense and very fond of tea and his friends The Hatter and Dormouse

The March Hare

A nervous creature in a constant rush, very keen on his pocket watch

The Queen of Hearts

A curious and polite little girl of seven who loves her pet cat Dinah.

The White Rabbit

Foul-tempered, croquet-playing who loves to shout 'Off with their heads!'

Now make up your own descriptions of your favourite Alice characters eg. The Cheshire Cat, the Dormouse

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Be nonsensical!

Make up your own nonsense verse

Remember the Mad Hatter's version of this famous nursery song?

**Twinkle, twinkle, little bat
How I wonder what you're at!
Up above the world you fly
Like a tea tray in the sky.**

Try making up your own version of 'Baa Baa Black Sheep', 'Jack and Jill' or 'Three Blind Mice'. Keep the structure but change key words for something completely unexpected. Or make up your own limerick – a funny little rhyming poem of five lines. Here's a famous one:

**There was an Old Man of Peru,
Who never knew what he should do;
So he tore off his hair,
And behaved like a bear,
That intrinsic Old Man of Peru.**

You could start by using facts from your own life and giving them a bizarre twist. For instance, if you live in York, and you have a brother, your limerick could begin 'There was a young brother from York, who would only ever eat pork'.



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