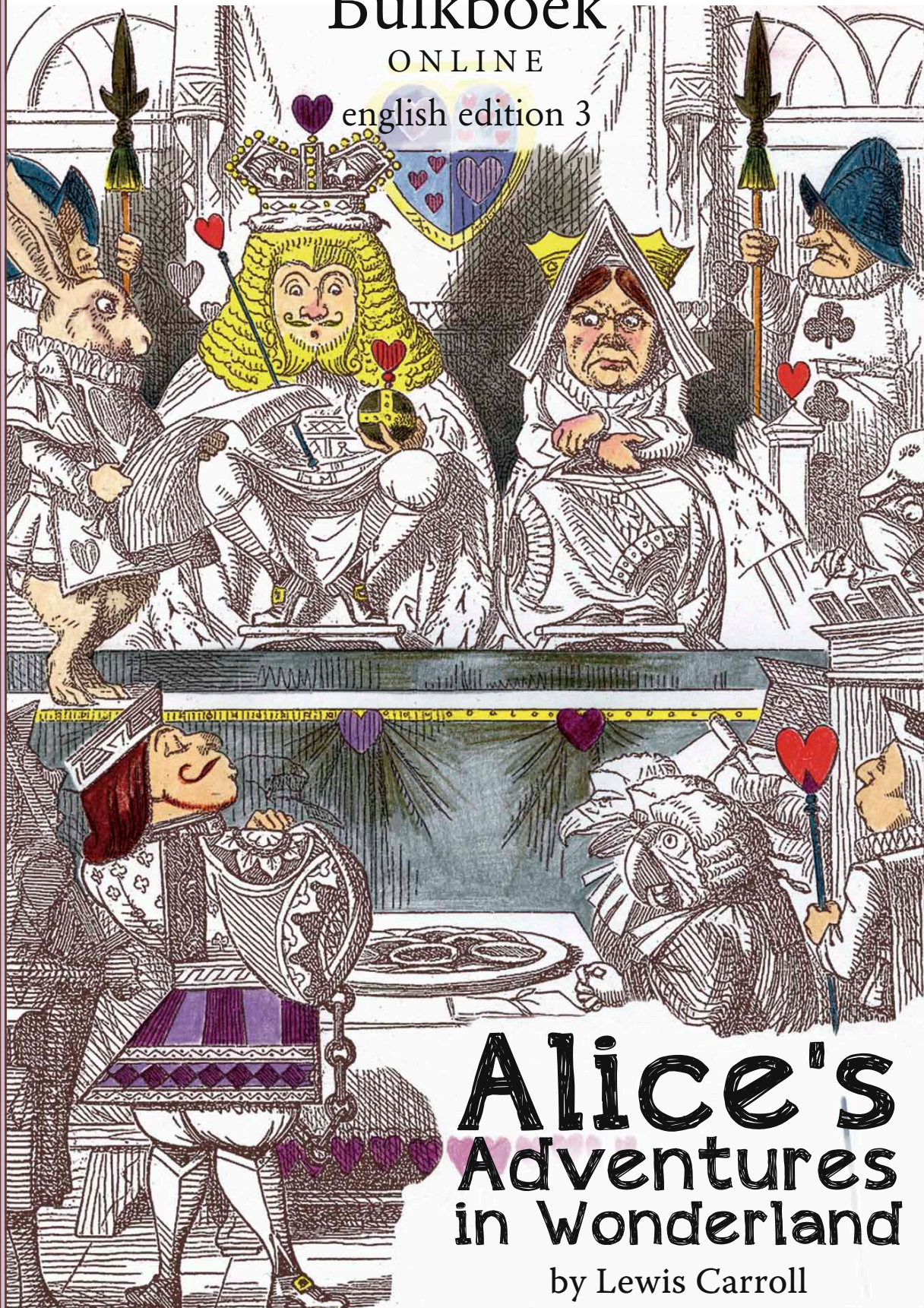


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Bulkboek®

ONLINE

english edition 3



Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

by Lewis Carroll

MET WOORDVERKLARINGEN VOOR NEDERLANDSTALIGE LEZERS!

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Impressum

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This bulkboek has been compiled, introduced and annotated by Lenny Bouman for Bulkboek

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VIDEO

Watch here the first-ever film of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland' has been filmed numerous times, and you will find many samples on the internet. Here you can see the first-ever film version of Lewis Carroll's tale, from 1903, that has recently been restored by the BFI National Archive from severely damaged materials.

This silent movie, with a running time of just 12 minutes (8 of which survive), was the longest film produced in England at that time, only eight years after the birth of cinema.

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voor info over het boek

Introduction to Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Op een zomerse dag - 4 juli 1862 - maakte Charles L. Dodgson, 30 jaar oud en docent wiskunde aan Christ Church College in Oxford, een boottochtje op de Theems met de drie dochters van de dean (rector) van dat college: Edith, Lorina en Alice Liddell.

Het was een warme dag en terwijl Charles roeide, vroegen de meisjes hem een leuk verhaal te vertellen, want ze wisten dat Charles dat goed kon en graag deed.

Terwijl hij rustig doorroeide, begon Charles zijn verhaal 'Alice's Adventures Underground' te vertellen. Het is heel laat in de middag geworden, want elke keer als Charles wilde ophouden met vertellen,

wilde Alice dat hij doorging omdat het zo spannend was.

Alice Liddell was dol op die 'nonsens' droomverhalen en ze heeft er ongetwijfeld voor gezorgd dat Charles het hele verhaal heeft uitverteld. Als volwassen vrouw schreef ze daar later over:

'Most of Mr. Dodgson's stories were told to us on river expeditions to Nuneham or Godstow, near Oxford. My eldest sister, now Mrs. Skene, was 'Prima', I was 'Secunda', and 'Tertia' was my sister Edith. I believe the beginning of 'Alice' was told one summer afternoon when the sun was so burning that we had landed in the meadows down the



river, deserting the boat to take refuge in the only bit of shade to be found, which was under a new-made hayrick. Here from all three came the old petition of 'Tell us a story' and so began the ever-delightful tale. Sometimes to tease us - and perhaps being really tired - Mr. Dodgson would stop suddenly and say. 'And that 's all till next time.'

'Ah, but it is next time,' would be the exclamation from all three; and after some persuasion the story would start afresh.'

Het verhaal bleek de drie meisjes zo te boeien dat Alice met een onverwacht verzoek kwam: ze vroeg Charles of hij Alice's avonturen voor haar kon opschrijven.

Op 13 november 1862 schreef Charles Dodgson in zijn dagboek: *'Began writing the fairy-tale for Alice -- I hope to finish it by Christmas'*

Het manuscript met het zeer fijne en duidelijke handschrift van Charles Dodgson en zijn zorgvuldig getekende illustraties zijn bewaard gebleven en liggen nu in het British Museum te Londen.

Maar wie was deze Charles L. Dodgson, die onder het pseudoniem Lewis Carroll zoveel 'nonsens'-verhalen, spelletjes, puzzels en gedichtjes schreef?

Lewis Carroll als kindervriend

Charles was de zoon van een dominee. Zijn moeder was een zeer vrome, vriendelijke vrouw en hij had veel broertjes en zusjes. In dit rustige huisgezin verzoon hij als kind talloze spelletjes en speelde met z'n vele dierenvrienden, waaronder padden, slakken en wormen. Veel van die beesten vind je

terug in het verhaal van Alice's avonturen.

Na een moeilijke tijd op de middelbare school, ging Charles wiskunde studeren aan de Universiteit van Oxford. Na z'n studie bleef hij in Oxford wonen en werd docent wiskunde aan het Christ Church College. Onder zijn echte naam publiceerde hij toen al vele boeken over wiskundige theorieën en logica.

Buiten z'n vak was Dodgson nogal stil en teruggetrokken. Hij maakte moeilijk contact met volwassenen, maar hij sloot hechte vriendschappen met kleine meisjes, die ademloos naar zijn wonderlijke verhalen konden luisteren.

Stuart Dodgson Collingwood, een neef van Charles die hem van zeer nabij heeft meegemaakt en na Charles' dood 'The Life and Letters of Lewis Carroll' heeft geschreven zegt in dat boek: *I think children appealed to him because he was pre-eminently a teacher, and he saw in their unspoiled minds the best material for him to work up on He used to give personal attention to each of his pupils and one can well imagine with what eager anticipation the children would have looked forward to the visits of a schoolmaster who knew how to make even the dullest subjects interesting and amusing.*

Charles Dodgson begreep de wereld van kinderen beter dan die van volwassenen en het contact dat hij - via veel brieven - met kinderen had, hielp hem vaak over z'n buien van neerslachtigheid heen.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Hoofdfiguur Alice, als het ware geboren

op de Theems en verder uitgewerkt in de werkkamer van Carroll, is een meisje dat met haar doldwaze avonturen niet alleen kinderen, maar ook miljoenen volwassenen heeft geboeid.

Zonder zich iets aan te trekken van alle onverwachte dingen die ze mee maakte, stapt de kleine, helder denkende en zeer vrolijke Alice onbekommerd door een wereld van pratende konijnen, katten en kaarten en verbaast zich zelfs niet eens als

ze opeens gaat groeien of kleiner wordt.

Carroll is, toen hij z'n verhaal voor Alice Liddell opschreef, nooit van plan geweest om dat verhaal te laten publiceren. Maar een vriend van Carroll was er zo enthousiast over dat hij Carroll wist te overtuigen om het manuscript naar een uitgever te sturen.

Carroll was eerst erg onzeker, vooral omdat hij twijfelde aan de kwaliteit van de illustraties die hij zelf gemaakt had. Pas toen de beroemde tekenaar John Tenniel



bereid bleek om samen met Carroll diens tekeningen op professionele wijze in illustraties om te zetten, stemde Carroll toe in publicatie.

Op 4 juli 1865 - precies drie jaar na het boottochtje op de Theems met de drie meisjes, ontving Alice Liddell het eerste gedrukte exemplaar van 'Alice's Adventures in Wonderland'. Het tweede exemplaar stuurde de uitgever naar prinses Beatrice, een dochter van de Engelse koningin Victoria.

De verschijning van het boek leverde al dadelijk problemen op, want de eerste druk van 2.000 exemplaren werd zowel door Carroll als door illustrator Tenniel afgekeurd, omdat ze beiden zeer ontevreden waren over de manier waarop de illustraties waren afgedrukt.

Het boek werd daarop geheel uit de handel genomen, er verscheen een nieuwe druk en alle kopers van de eerste druk kregen een nieuw exemplaar. Die eerste druk heeft Carroll daarna weggegeven aan zieke kinderen en weeshuizen. De tweede druk werd zo'n succes dat er dadelijk een derde druk verscheen.

Er is maar weinig verschil tussen de oorspronkelijke versie met de titel 'Alice's Adventures Underground' (de versie die Carroll aan de kinderen Liddell vertelde en opschreef) en de gepubliceerde versie onder de titel 'Alice's Adventures In Wonderland'. De 'Wonderland' versie is iets langer en er zijn meer details aan het verhaal toegevoegd, maar in wezen is de oorspronkelijke opzet precies hetzelfde gebleven.

Neef Stuart Dodgson Collingwood zegt in zijn boek *The Life and Letters of Lewis Carroll* daarover: *His memory was so good that I believe the story as he wrote it down was almost word for word the same that he told in the boat. The whole idea came like an inspiration into his mind. and that sort of inspiration does not often come more than once in a lifetime. Nothing which he wrote afterwards had anything like the same amount of freshness, of wit, of real genius.*

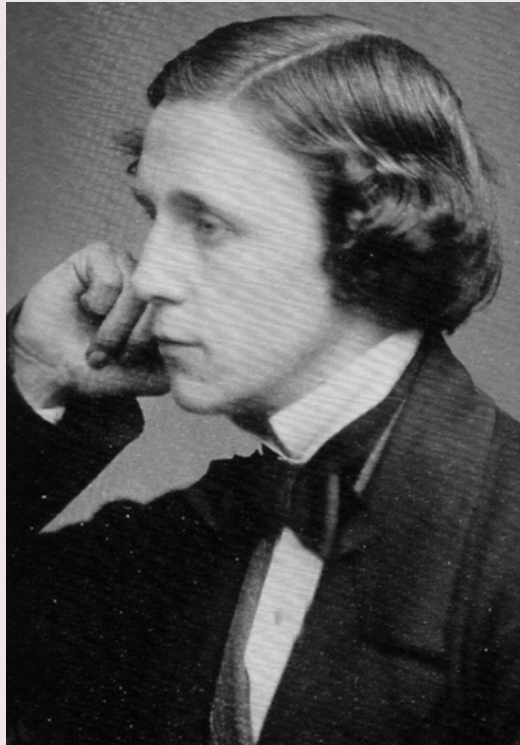
Het boek is in bijna alle talen vertaald, meerdere keren verfilmd, er is een musical van gemaakt en het boek is nog steeds een geliefd onderwerp op scholen en universiteiten.

Carroll zelf is altijd een beetje verbaasd gebleven over het grote succes dat z'n boek had. In een van z'n brieven schrijft hij daarover: *That children love the book is a very precious thought to me. And, next to their love, I value the sympathy of those who come with a child's heart to what I have tried to write about a child's thought ...*

Carroll als fotograaf en uitvinder

Wat eigenlijk minder bekend is, is dat Carroll niet alleen een van de beste sprookjesschrijvers van zijn tijd was, maar ook een van de beste portretfotografen van de eervorige eeuw. En uiteraard in zijn portretten van kinderen het meest opvallend.

Uit Carroll's dagboek blijkt ook dat hij altijd bezig was kleine vernuftige of handige dingen uit te denken zoals: Een vervangmiddel voor lijm, een methode om het verkeer op Covent Garden te regelen,



een apparaat om aantekeningen mee te maken in het donker en een beter stuur voor een driewieler.

Deze bescheiden en veelzijdige man zou nooit hebben kunnen vermoeden dat zijn werk in de 21e eeuw nog steeds met veel plezier door jong en oud gelezen zou worden.

Lenny Bouman, 1975, Den Haag

All in the golden afternoon

All in the golden afternoon[¶]

Full leisurely* we glide;
For both our oars*, with little skill,
By little arms are plied*,
While little hands make vain pretence*
Our wanderings to guide.

LEISURELY: **without haste or hurry**
OAR: **pole with a flat blade, pulled by hand, to move the boat through the water** | TO PLY: **work with** | VAIN: **without result** | PRETENCE: **make-belief**

Ah, cruel Three! In such an hour,
Beneath* such dreamy weather,
To beg a tale* of breath too weak
To stir* the tiniest feather!
Yet what can one poor voice avail*
Against three tongues together?

BENEATH: **below**
TALE: **story**
TO STIR: **move**
TO AVAIL: **do**

Imperious* Prima flashes forth
Her edict* “to begin it”:
In gentler tones Secunda hopes
“There will be nonsense in it!”
While Tertia interrupts the tale
Not *more* than once a minute.

IMPERIOUS: **haughty**
EDICT: **order**

Anon* , to sudden silence won,
In fancy* they pursue*
The dream-child moving through a land

ANON: **soon**
FANCY: **imagination** | TO PURSUE: **follow**

[¶] *In these verses Carroll remembers that ‘golden afternoon’ in 1862 when he and his friend the Reverend Robinson Duckworth took the three charming Liddell sisters on a rowing expedition up the Thames. ‘Prima’ was the eldest sister, Lorina Charlotte, age thirteen. Alice Pleasance, age ten, was ‘Secunda,’ and the youngest sister, Edith, age eight, was ‘Tertia.’ Carroll was then thirty. The date was Friday, July 4. The trip was about three miles, beginning at Folly Bridge, near Oxford, and ending*

at the village of Godstow. ‘We had tea on the bank of the river there,’ Carroll recorded in his diary, ‘and did not reach Christ Church again till quarter past eight, when we took them on to my rooms to see my collection of microphotograph’s, and restored them to the Deanery just before nine.’ Seven months later he added in his diary the following note : On which occasion I told them the fairy-tale of Alice’s adventures underground .. ?

Of wonders wild and new,
In friendly chat* with bird or beast —
And half believe it true.

CHAT: friendly talk

And ever, as the story drained
The wells* of fancy dry,
And faintly strove* that weary one*
To put* the subject by,
“The rest next time —” “It is next time!”
The happy voices cry.

WELL: spring of water

TO STRIVE: struggle | WEARY ONE: tired
(narrator) | TO PUT SOMETHING BY: save
or future use

Thus grew the tale of Wonderland:
Thus slowly, one by one,
Its quaint* events were hammered out —
And now the tale is done,
And home we steer, a merry crew,
Beneath the setting sun.

QUAINT: pleasing because unusual

Alice! A childish story take,
And, with a gentle hand,
Lay it where Childhood’s dreams are twined*
In Memory’s mystic band,
Like pilgrim’s wither’d* wreath* of flowers
Pluck’d in a far-off land.²

TO TWINE: twist

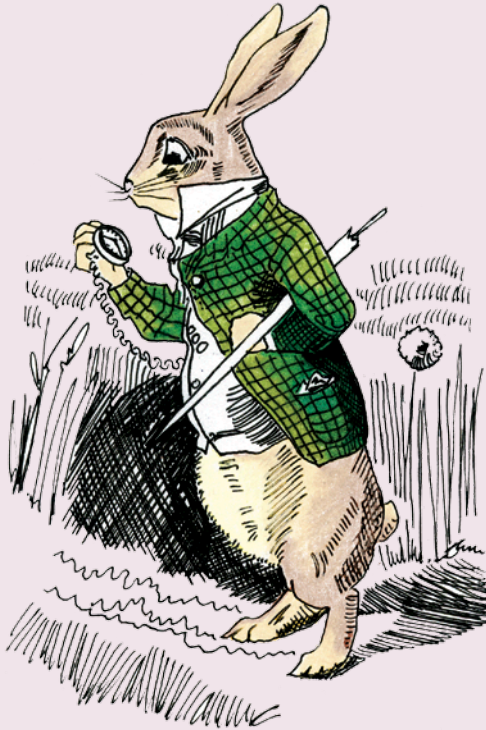
TO WITHER: become dry | WREATH: flowers
or leaves twisted together into a circle



² It was a common practice of early pilgrims to wear wreaths of flowers on their heads.

CHAPTER 1

Down the Rabbit Hole



Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped* into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, “and what is the use of a book,” thought Alice, “without pictures or conversations?”

TO PEEP: give a short quick look, often secretly

So she was considering, in her own mind (as well as she could, for the hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid), whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain* would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

DAISY-CHAIN: *Dutch*: madeliefjesketting

There was nothing so *very* remarkable in that; nor did Alice think it so *very* much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself “Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be too late!” (when she thought it over afterwards,

it occurred to her* that she ought to have wondered at this, but at the time it all seemed quite natural); but, when the Rabbit actually *took a watch out of its waistcoat*-pocket*, and looked at it, and then hurried on, Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and, burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and was just in time to see it pop down* a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.

In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again.

The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped* suddenly down, so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down what seemed to be a very deep well*.

Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly, for she had plenty of time as she went down to look about her, and to wonder what was going to happen next. First, she tried to look down and make out what she was coming to, but it was too dark to see anything: then she looked at the sides of the well, and noticed that they were filled with cupboards and book-shelves: here and there she saw maps and pictures hung upon pegs*. She took down a jar* from one of the shelves as she passed: it was labeled "ORANGE MARMALADE", but to her great disappointment it was empty: she did not like to drop the jar, for fear of killing somebody underneath, so she managed* to put it into one of the cupboards as she fell past it. ■

"Well!" thought Alice to herself. "After such a fall as this, I shall think nothing of tumbling* downstairs! How brave they'll all think me at home! Why, I wouldn't say anything about it, even if I fell off the

IT OCCURRED TO HER: *it came into her mind*

WAISTCOAT: *vest*

TO POP DOWN: *go down quickly*

TO DIP: *go below a surface or level*

WELL: *deep hole in the ground, usually filled with water*

PEG: *wooden or metal pin*

JAR: *tall vessel, usually round with a wide mouth*

TO MANAGE: *succeed*

TO TUMBLE: *fall quickly or violently*

■ *Carroll was aware, of course, that in a normal state of free fall Alice could neither drop the jar (it*

would remain suspended in front of her) nor replace it on a shelf (her speed would be too great).

top of the house!” (Which was very likely true.)

Down, down, down. Would the fall *never* come to an end? “I wonder how many miles I’ve fallen by this time?” she said aloud. “I must be getting somewhere near the centre of the earth. Let me see: that would be four thousand miles down, I think —” (for, you see, Alice had learnt several things of this sort in her lessons in the school-room, and though this was not a *very* good opportunity for showing off her knowledge, as there was no one to listen to her, still it was good practice to say it over) “— yes, that’s about the right distance — but then I wonder what Latitude or Longitude I’ve got to?” (Alice had not the slightest idea what Latitude* was, or Longitude* either, but she thought they were nice grand* words to say.)

Presently* she began again. “I wonder if I shall fall right *through* the earth!² How funny it’ll seem to come out among the people that walk with their heads downwards! The antipathies*, I think —” (she was rather glad there *was* no one listening, this time, as it didn’t sound at all the right word) “— but I shall have to ask them what the name of the country is, you know. Please, Ma’am, is this New Zealand? Or Australia?” (and she tried to curtsy* as she spoke — fancy*, *curtseying* as you’re falling through the air! Do you think you could manage it?) “And what an ignorant little girl she’ll think me for asking! No, it’ll never do to ask: perhaps I shall see it written up somewhere.”

Down, down, down. There was nothing else to do, so Alice soon began talking again. “Dinah’ll miss me very much tonight, I should think!” (Dinah was the cat.)³ “I hope they’ll remember her saucer of milk at tea-time. Dinah, my dear! I wish you were down here with me! There are no mice in the air, I’m afraid, but you might catch a bat*, and that’s very like a mouse,

LATITUDE: *Dutch: (geogr.) breedtegraad*

LONGITUDE: *Dutch: (geogr.) lengtegraad*

GRAND: *important*

PRESENTLY: *soon*

ANTIPATHIES: *dislikes; but Alice means the Antipodes, i.e. Australia and New Zealand*

TO CURTSEY: *bend the knees as a gesture of respect (made by girls and women) |*

FANCY: *imagine*

BAT: *Dutch: vleermuis*

of the earth.

² *In Carroll’s day there was considerable popular speculation: about what would happen if one fell through a hole that ‘Went straight through the center*

³ *Dinah was the name of a cat that belonged to the Liddell children.*

you know. But do cats eat bats, I wonder?” And here Alice began to get rather sleepy, and went on saying to herself, in a dreamy sort of way, “Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats?” and sometimes “Do bats eat cats?” for, you see, as she couldn’t answer either question, it didn’t much matter which way she put it. She felt that she was dozing off*, and had just begun to dream that she was walking hand in hand with Dinah, and was saying to her, very earnestly, “Now, Dinah, tell me the truth: did you ever eat a bat?” when suddenly, thump! thump! down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the fall was over.

TO DOZE OFF: **fall half asleep**

Alice was not a bit hurt, and she jumped up on to her feet in a moment: she looked up, but it was all



dark overhead: before her was another long passage, and the White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying down it. There was not a moment to be lost: away went Alice like the wind, and was just in time to hear it say, as it turned a corner, “Oh my ears and whiskers*, how late it’s getting!” She was close behind it when she turned the corner, but the Rabbit was no longer to be seen: she found herself in a long, low hall, which was lit up by a row of lamps hanging from the roof.

WHISKER: **one of the long, stiff hairs growing near the mouth of a cat, rat, rabbit, etc.**

There were doors all round the hall, but they were all locked; and when Alice had been all the way down one side and up the other, trying every door, she walked sadly down the middle, wondering how she was ever to get out again.

Suddenly she came upon* a little three-legged table, all made of solid glass: there was nothing on it but a tiny golden key, and Alice's first idea was that this might belong to one of the doors of the hall; but, alas! either the locks were too large, or the key was too small, but at any rate it would not open any of them. However, on the second time round, she came upon a low curtain she had not noticed before, and behind it was a little door about fifteen inches* high: she tried the little golden key in the lock, and to her great delight it fitted!

Alice opened the door and found that it led into a small passage, not much larger than a rat-hole: she knelt down and looked along the passage into the loveliest garden you ever saw. How she longed to get out of that dark hall, and wander about among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains, but she could not even get her head through the doorway; "and even if my head *would* go through," thought poor Alice, "it would be of very little use without my shoulders. Oh, how I wish I could shut up like a telescope!⁴ I think I could, if I only knew how to begin." For, you see, so many out-of-the-way things had happened lately, that Alice had begun to think that very few things indeed were really impossible.

There seemed to be no use in waiting by the little door, so she went back to the table, half hoping she might find another key on it, or at any rate a book of rules for shutting people up like telescopes: this time she found a little bottle on it ("which certainly

TO COME UPON: *meet by chance*

FIFTEEN INCHES: *Dutch: ca. 38 centimeter*

⁴ *A telescope when open is a long tube-like instrument composed of various sections which can slide one within the other. To close a telescope one*

pushes all the sections together ending up with a rather small object, hence this expression used by Alice.

was not here before,” said Alice), and tied round the neck of the bottle was a paper label, with the words “DRINK ME” beautifully printed on it in large letters.



It was all very well to say “Drink me,” but the wise little Alice was not going to do *that* in a hurry. “No, I’ll look first,” she said, “and see whether it’s marked ‘*poison*’* or not”; for she had read several nice little stories about children who had got burnt, and eaten up by wild beasts, and other unpleasant things, all because they *would* not remember the simple rules their friends had taught them: such as, that a red-

POISON: substance causing death or harm when swallowed

hot poker* will burn you if you hold it too long; and that, if you cut your finger *very* deeply with a knife, it usually bleeds; and she had never forgotten that, if you drink much from a bottle marked “poison,” it is almost certain to disagree* with you, sooner or later.

However, this bottle was *not* marked “poison”, so Alice ventured* to taste it, and, finding it very nice (it had, in fact, a sort of mixed flavour* of cherry-tart*, custard*, pine-apple*, roast turkey, toffy, and hot buttered toast), she very soon finished it off.

“What a curious feeling!” said Alice. “I must be shutting up like a telescope!”

And so it was indeed: she was now only ten inches* high, and her face brightened up at the thought that she was now the right size for going through the little door into that lovely garden. First, however, she waited for a few minutes to see if she was going to shrink* any further: she felt a little nervous about this; “for it might end, you know,” said Alice to herself, “in my going out altogether*, like a candle. I wonder what I should be like then?” And she tried to fancy what the flame of a candle looks like after the candle is blown out, for she could not remember ever having seen such a thing.

After a while, finding that nothing more happened, she decided on going into the garden at once; but, alas for poor Alice! when she got to the door, she found she had forgotten the little golden key, and when she went back to the table for it, she found she could not possibly reach it: she could see it quite plainly through the glass, and she tried her best to climb up one of the legs of the table, but it was too slippery; and when she had tired herself out with trying, the poor little thing sat down and cried.

“Come, there’s no use in crying like that!” said Alice to herself rather sharply. “I advise you to leave off this minute!” She generally gave herself very good advice (though she very seldom followed it),

POKER: **strong metal rod for stirring or breaking up the coal in the fire**

TO DISAGREE: **have a different view**

TO VENTURE: **dare**

FLAVOUR: **taste** | CHERRY-TART: *Dutch: kersentaart(je)* | CUSTARD: *Dutch: vla of pudding* | PINE-APPLE: *Dutch: ananas* | ROAST TURKEY: *Dutch: gebraden kalkoen*

TEN INCHES: *Dutch: ca. 25 cm*

TO SHRINK: **become smaller**

GOING OUT: **here: dissolve** | ALTOGETHER: **entirely, wholly** ,

and sometimes she scolded* herself so severely as to bring tears into her eyes; and once she remembered trying to box her own ears* for having cheated* herself in a game of croquet⁵ she was playing against herself, for this curious child was very fond of pretending to be two people*. “But it’s no use now,” thought poor Alice, “to pretend to be two people! Why, there’s hardly enough of me left to make *one* respectable person.”

Soon her eye fell on a little glass box that was lying under the table: she opened it, and found in it a very small cake, on which the words “EAT ME” were beautifully marked in currants*. “Well, I’ll eat it,” said Alice, “and if it makes me grow larger, I can reach the key; and if it makes me grow smaller, I can creep under the door: so either way I’ll get into the garden, and I don’t care which happens!”

She ate a little bit, and said anxiously to herself “Which way? Which way?”, holding her hand on the top of her head to feel which way it was growing; and she was quite surprised to find that she remained the same size. To be sure, this is what generally happens when one eats cake; but Alice had got so much into the way of expecting nothing but* out-of-the-way things to happen, that it seemed quite dull and stupid for life to go on in the common way. So she set to work, and very soon finished off the cake.

TO SCOLD: **blame with angry words**

TO BOX SOMEBODY’S EARS: **give him a blow with the open hand on the ears** | TO

CHEAT: **act dishonestly to win an advantage or profit** | TO BE VERY FOND OF PRETENDING: **like very much to make believe** | TO BE TWO PEOPLE: **being two different persons**

CURRENT: **small, sweet, dried seedless grape**

NOTHING BUT: **merely**

⁵ *Game played on short grass with wooden balls which are knocked with wooden mallets (hamer) through hoops (hoepel).*

CHAPTER II

The Pool of Tears



“Curiouser and curiouser!” cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English). “Now I’m opening out like the largest telescope that ever was! Good-bye, feet!” (for when she looked down at her feet, they seemed to be almost out of sight, they were getting so far off). “Oh, my poor little feet, I wonder who will put on your shoes and stockings for you now, dears? I’m sure I sha’n’t be able! I shall be a great deal too far off to trouble myself about you: you must manage the best way you can—but I must be kind to them,” , thought Alice, “or perhaps they wo’n’t walk the way

I want to go! Let me see. I'll give them a new pair of boots* every Christmas."

And she went on planning to herself how she would manage it. "They must go by the carrier*," she thought; "and how funny it'll seem, sending presents to one's own feet! And how odd the directions will look!

Alice's Right Foot, Esq.
Hearthrug*,
near the Fender*,
(with Alice's love).*

Oh dear, what nonsense I'm talking!"

Just at this moment her head struck against the roof of the hall: in fact she was now rather more than nine feet* high, and she at once took up the little golden key and hurried off to the garden door. Poor Alice! It was as much as she could do, lying down on one side, to look through into the garden with one eye; but to get through was more hopeless than ever: she sat down and began to cry again.

"You ought to be ashamed of yourself," said Alice, "a great girl like you," (she might well say this), "to go on crying in this way! Stop this moment, I tell you!" But she went on all the same, shedding gallons* of tears, until there was a large pool all round her, about four inches deep, and reaching half down the hall.

After a time she heard a little pattering* of feet in the distance, and she hastily dried her eyes to see what was coming. It was the White Rabbit returning, splendidly dressed, with a pair of white kid-gloves* in one hand and a large fan* in the other: he came trotting* along in a great hurry, muttering to himself, as he came, "Oh! The Duchess*, the Duchess! Oh! Wo'n't she be savage* if I've kept her waiting!" Alice felt so desperate that she was ready to ask help of any one: so, when the Rabbit came near her, she began, in a low, timid voice, "If you please, Sir —" The Rabbit

BOOTS: shoes reaching to the knee

CARRIER: person that carries goods for payment

ESQ.: title of courtesy after a man's family name, instead of Mr. before it

HEARTH RUG: rug spread out in front of the floor of a fireplace

FENDER: low metal frame or screen between the hearth rug and an open fireplace

NINE FEET: *Dutch*: ca. 2.76 m

GALLON: measure for liquids, 1 gallon = 4.5435 litres

PATTERING: sound of quick, light footsteps

KID GLOVES: gloves made of leather made from skin of young goat | FAN: object waved (in one's hand) for making a current of air | TO TROT: run with short steps | DUCHESS: *Dutch*: hertogin | SAVAGE: very angry

started* violently, dropped the white kid-gloves and the fan, and scurried* away into the darkness as hard as he could go.

Alice took up the fan and gloves, and, as the hall was very hot, she kept fanning herself all the time she went on talking. “Dear, dear! How queer* everything is today! And yesterday things went on just as usual. I wonder if I’ve been changed in the night? Let me think: was I the same when I got up this morning? I almost think I can remember feeling a little different. But if I’m not the same, the next question is ‘Who in the world am I?’ Ah, *that’s* the great puzzle!” And she began thinking over all the children she knew that were of the same age as herself, to see if she could have been changed for any of them.

“I’m sure I’m not Ada,” she said, “for her hair goes in such long ringlets*, and mine doesn’t go in ringlets at all; and I’m sure I ca’n’t be Mabel, for I know all sorts of things, and she, oh, she knows such a very little! Besides, *she’s* she, and *I’m* I, and — oh dear, how puzzling it all is! I’ll try if I know all the things I used to know. Let me see: four times five is twelve, and four times six is thirteen, and four times seven is — oh dear! I shall never get to twenty at that rate! ¹ However, the Multiplication-Table doesn’t signify*: let’s try Geography. London is the capital of Paris, and Paris is the capital of Rome, and Rome — no, that’s all wrong, I’m certain! I must have been changed for Mabel! I’ll try and say ‘*How doth the little** —’,” and she crossed her hands on her lap*, as if she were saying lessons, and began to repeat it, but her voice sounded hoarse* and strange, and the words did not come the same as they used to do: — ²

TO START: **make a sudden movement**
TO SCURRY: **run with short, quick steps**

QUEER: **strange**

RINGLET: **small curl of hair**

TO SIGNIFY: **be of importance**

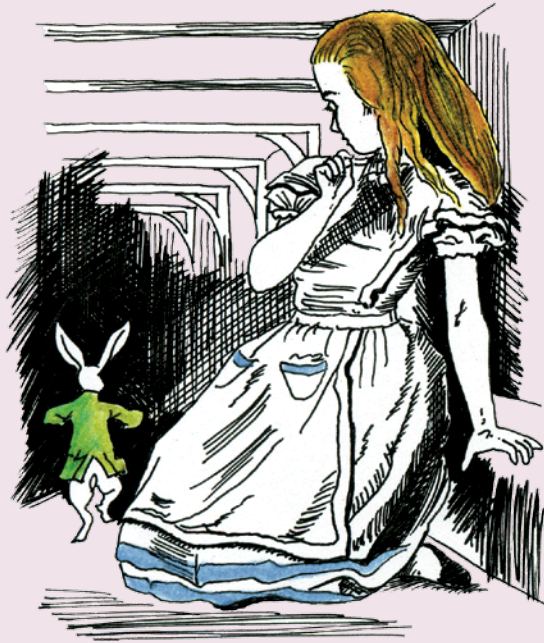
DOTH: **(old usage) does**

LAP: **front part of a person’s legs from the waist to the knees, when sitting** | HOARSE: **rough and harsh**

¹ The simplest explanation of why Alice will never get to 20 is this: the multiplication table (*vermenigvuldigings tabel*) traditionally stops with the twelves, so if you continue this nonsense-progression - 4 times 5 is 12, 4 times 6 is 13, 4 times 7

is 14, and so on - you end with 4 times 12 (the highest she can go) is 19 - just one short of 20.

² Most of the ‘poems’ in the Alice books are parodies of poems or popular songs that were well known to Carroll’s contemporary readers. With few exceptions



“How doth the little crocodile
 Improve* his shining tail,
 And pour the waters of the Nile
 On every golden scale*!

TO IMPROVE: **make (to look) better**

SCALE: **Dutch: schub**

“How cheerfully* he seems to grin* ,
 How neatly* spreads his claws,
 And welcomes little fishes in,
 With gently smiling jaws!”

CHEERFULLY: **happily** | TO GRIN: **smile broadly** | NEAT: **done carefully, tidy**

“I’m sure those are not the right words,” said poor Alice, and her eyes filled with tears again as she went on, “I must be Mabel after all, and I shall have to go and live in that poky* little house, and have

POKY: **small, limited in space**

the originals have now been forgotten, their titles kept alive only by the fact that Carroll chose to poke fun at them. Here we have a skillful parody of the best-known poem of Isaac Watts (1674-1748):

*How doth the little busy bee
 Improve each shining hour,
 And gather honey all the day
 From every opening flower!
 How skillfully she builds her cell!
 How neat she spreads the wax!*

*And labours hard to store it well
 With the sweet foods she makes.
 In works of labour or of skill,
 I would be busy too;
 For Satan finds some mischief still
 For idle hands to do.
 In books, or work, or healthful play,
 Let my first years be passed,
 That I may give for every day
 Some good account at last.*

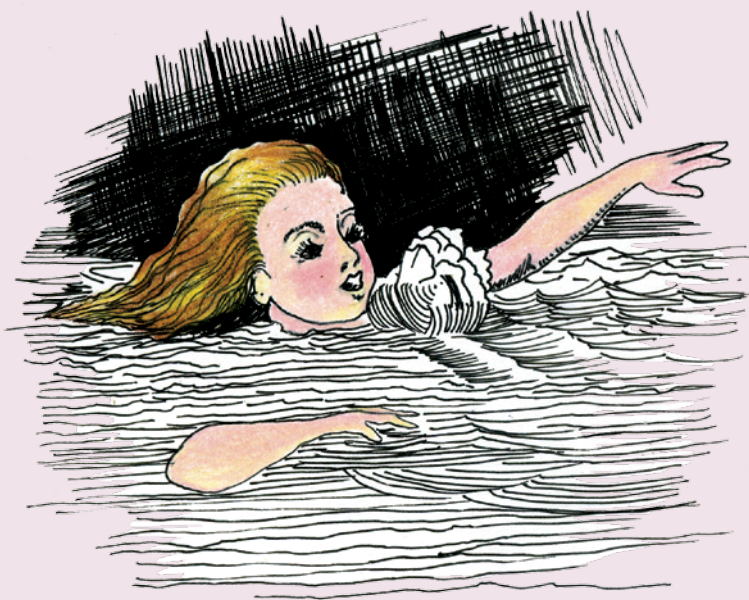
next to no* toys to play with, and oh, ever so many lessons to learn! No, I've made up my mind about it: if I'm Mabel, I'll stay down here! It'll be no use their putting their heads down and saying 'Come up again, dear!' I shall only look up and say 'Who am I, then? Tell me that first, and then, if I like being that person, I'll come up: if not, I'll stay down here till I'm somebody else' — but, oh dear!" cried Alice, with a sudden burst of tears, "I do wish they *would* put their heads down! I am so *very* tired of being all alone here!"

NEXT TO NO: almost no

As she said this she looked down at her hands, and was surprised to see that she had put on one of the Rabbit's little white kid-gloves while she was talking. "How can I have done that?" she thought. "I must be growing small again." She got up and went to the table to measure herself by it, and found that, as nearly as she could guess, she was now about two feet* high, and was going on shrinking rapidly: she soon found out that the cause of this was the fan she was holding, and she dropped it hastily, just in time to save herself from shrinking away altogether.

TWO FEET: Dutch: ca. 61 em

"That *was* a narrow escape!" said Alice, a good deal frightened at the sudden change, but very glad to find herself still in existence. "And now for the garden!" And she ran with all speed back to the little



door; but, alas! the little door was shut again, and the little golden key was lying on the glass table as before, “and things are worse than ever,” thought the poor child, “for I never was so small as this before, never! And I declare it’s too bad, that it is!”

As she said these words her foot slipped, and in another moment, splash! She was up to her chin* in salt water. Her first idea was that she had somehow fallen into the sea, “and in that case I can go back by railway,” she said to herself. (Alice had been to the seaside once in her life, and had come to the general conclusion that, wherever you go to on the English coast, you find a number of bathing-machines³ in the sea, some children digging in the sand with wooden spades, then a row of lodging-houses*, and behind them a railway station.) However, she soon made out that she was in the pool of tears which she had wept when she was nine feet high.

“I wish I hadn’t cried so much!” said Alice, as she swam about, trying to find her way out. “I shall be punished for it now, I suppose, by being drowned in my own tears! That *will* be a queer thing, to be sure! However, everything is queer today.”

Just then she heard something splashing about in the pool a little way off, and she swam nearer to make out what it was: at first she thought it must be a walrus or hippopotamus*, but then she remembered how small she was now, and she soon made out that it was only a mouse, that had slipped in like herself.

“Would it be of any use, now,” thought Alice, “to speak to this mouse? Everything is so out-of-the-way down here, that I should think very likely it can talk: at any rate*, there’s no harm in trying.” So she began: “O Mouse, do you know the way out of this pool? I

CHIN: *part of the face below the mouth*

LODGING HOUSE: *house in which room(s) are let (usually by the week)*

HIPPOTAMUS: *Dutch: nijlpaard*

AT ANY RATE: *in any case, anyway*

³ *Bathing machines were small individual locker rooms on wheels. They were drawn into the sea by horses to the depth desired by the bather, who then came out modestly through a door facing the sea. A*

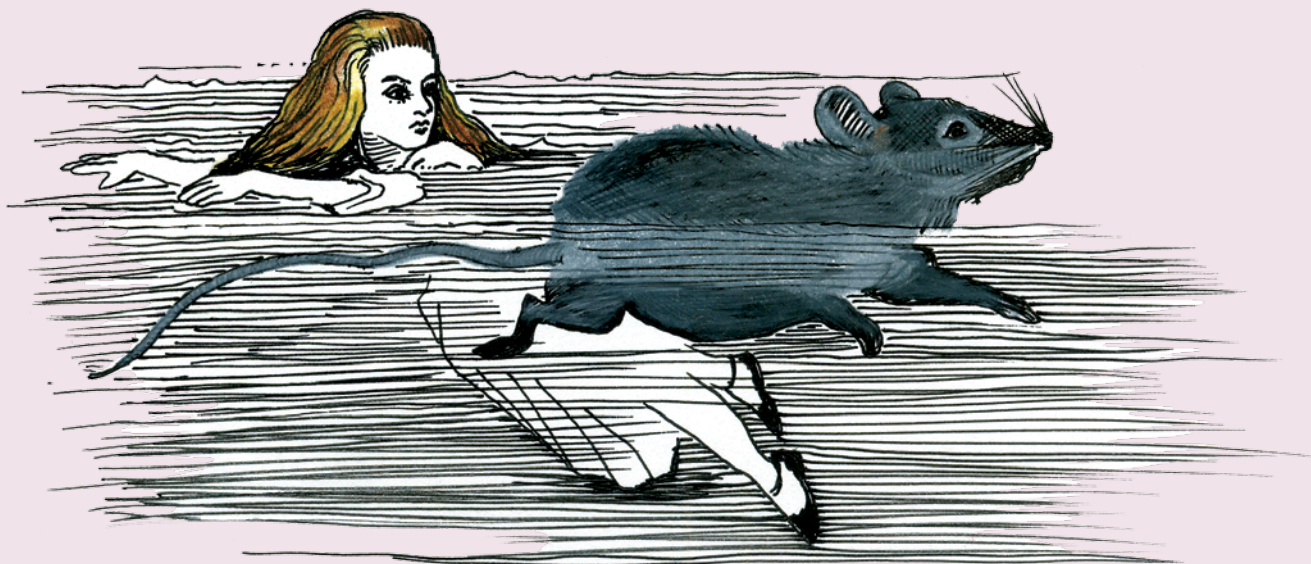
huge umbrella in the back of the machine concealed the bather from public view. On the beach the machines were of course used for privacy in dressing and undressing.

am very tired of swimming about here, O Mouse!” (Alice thought this must be the right way of speaking to a mouse: she had never done such a thing before, but she remembered having seen, in her brother’s Latin Grammar, “A mouse — of a mouse — to a mouse — a mouse — Omouse!”) The mouse looked at her rather inquisitively*, and seemed to her to wink* with one of its little eyes, but it said nothing.

INQUISITIVE: **fond of asking** | TO WINK:
Dutch: knipogen

“Perhaps it doesn’t understand English,” thought Alice. “I dare say it’s a French mouse, come over with William the Conqueror. 4” (For, with all her knowledge of history, Alice had no very clear notion* how long ago anything had happened.) So she began again: “Ou est ma chatte?” which was the first

NOTION: **idea**



sentence in her French lesson-book. The Mouse gave a sudden leap* out of the water, and seemed to quiver* all over with fright. “Oh, I beg your pardon!” cried Alice hastily, afraid that she had hurt the poor animal’s feelings. “I quite forgot you didn’t like cats.”

LEAP: **jump**
TO QUIVER: **tremble slightly**

“Not like cats!” cried the Mouse in a shrill, passionate voice. “Would *you* like cats, if you were me?”

“Well, perhaps not,” said Alice in a soothing* tone:

SOOTHING: **quietening, calming**

4 *William the Conqueror (1027-1087), King of England, who originally came from Normandy in France.*

“don’t be angry about it. And yet I wish I could show you our cat Dinah. I think you’d take a fancy to* cats, if you could only see her. She is such a dear quiet thing,” Alice went on, half to herself, as she swam lazily about in the pool, “and she sits purring* so nicely by the fire, licking her paws* and washing her face — and she is such a nice soft thing to nurse — and she’s such a capital one* for catching mice — oh, I beg your pardon!” cried Alice again, for this time the Mouse was bristling* all over, and she felt certain it must be really offended*. “We wo’n’t talk about her any more, if you’d rather not.”

“We, indeed!” cried the Mouse, who was trembling down to the end of its tail. “As if I would talk on such a subject! Our family always *hated* cats: nasty*, low, vulgar things! Don’t let me hear the name again!”

“I wo’n’t indeed!” said Alice, in a great hurry to change the subject of conversation. “Are you — are you fond — of — of dogs?” The Mouse did not answer, so Alice went on eagerly: “There is such a nice little dog, near our house, I should like to show you! A little bright-eyed terrier, you know, with oh, such long curly brown hair! And it’ll fetch things when you throw them, and it’ll sit up and beg for its dinner, and all sorts of things — I ca’n’t remember half of them — and it belongs to a farmer, you know, and he says it’s so useful, it’s worth a hundred pounds! He says it kills all the rats and — oh dear!” cried Alice in a sorrowful tone. “I’m afraid I’ve offended it again!” For the Mouse was swimming away from her as hard as it could go, and making quite a commotion* in the pool as it went.

So she called softly after it, “Mouse dear! Do come back again, and we wo’n’t talk about cats, or dogs either, if you don’t like them!” When the Mouse heard this, it turned round and swam slowly back to her: its face was quite pale (with passion, Alice thought), and it said, in a low trembling voice, “Let

TAKE A FANCY TO: **start liking**

TO PURR: **make a low, continuous vibrating sound expressing pleasure** | PAW: **animal’s foot that has claws or nails**

CAPITAL (ONE): **excellent, first-rate**

TO BRISTLE: **(of hair) to stand up, rise on end** | TO BE OFFENDED: **annoyed, his feelings hurt**

NASTY: **unpleasant**

COMMOTION: **disturbance**

us get to the shore, and then I'll tell you my history, and you'll understand why it is I hate cats and dogs. "It was high time to go, for the pool was getting quite crowded with the birds and animals that had fallen into it: there was a Duck and a Dodo, a Lory and an Eaglet⁵, and several other curious creatures. Alice led the way, and the whole party swam to the shore.

⁵ *The Duck is the Reverend Duckworth; the Lory (an Australian parrot) is Lorina Liddell; Edith Liddell is the Eaglet; and the Dodo is Lewis Carroll himself. When Carroll stammered he pronounced his name 'Do-Do-Dodgson,'*

CHAPTER III

A Caucus-Race and a Long Tale

They were indeed a queer-looking party that assembled* on the bank — the birds with draggled* feathers, the animals with their fur* clinging close to them, and all dripping wet, cross*, and uncomfortable.

The first question of course was, how to get dry again: they had a consultation about this, and after a few minutes it seemed quite natural to Alice to find herself talking familiarly with them, as if she had known them all her life. Indeed, she had quite a long argument with the Lory, who at last turned sulky*, and would only say “I’m older than you, and must know better”. And this Alice would not allow, without knowing how old it was, and, as the Lory positively refused to tell its age, there was no more to be said.

At last the Mouse, who seemed to be a person of some authority among them, called out “Sit down, all of you, and listen to me! *I’ll* soon make you dry enough!” They all sat down at once, in a large ring, with the Mouse in the middle. Alice kept her eyes anxiously fixed on it, for she felt sure she would catch a bad cold if she did not get dry very soon.

“Ahem!” said the Mouse with an important air*. “Are you all ready? This is the driest* thing I know. Silence all round, if you please! ‘William the Conqueror, whose cause* was favoured by the pope*, was soon submitted* to by the English, who wanted leaders, and had been of late* much accustomed to usurpation* and conquest*. Edwin and Morcar, the earls of Mercia and Northumbria —’ ”¹

TO ASSEMBLE: gather | DRAGGLED: wet, dirty or muddy | FUR: soft, thick hair of certain animals, e.g. cats, rabbits | CROSS: bad-tempered

SULKY: be in a bad temper and showing this by refusing to talk

AIR: manner | DRY: uninteresting
CAUSE: purpose for which efforts are being made | POPE: Bishop of Rome; Dutch: paus | TO SUBMIT: surrender | OF LATE: recently | USURPATION: action of taking wrongfully somebody's power, authority, position | CONQUEST: taking by force

¹ *Descendants of the mixed Scandinavian and Frankish race which established itself in the northwestern part of France in the 9th century.*

“Ugh!” said the Lory, with a shiver.

“I beg your pardon!” said the Mouse, frowning*, but very politely. “Did you speak?”

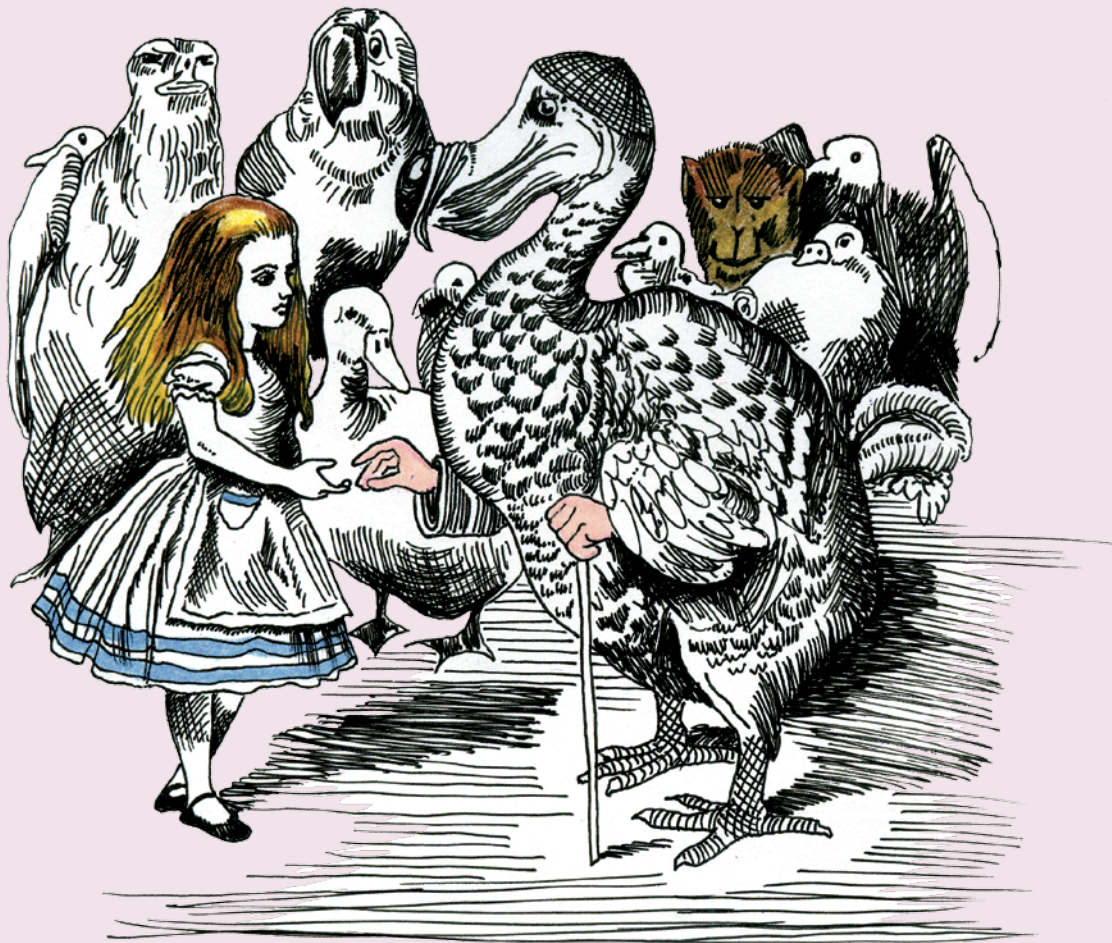
“Not I!” said the Lory, hastily.

“I thought you did,” said the Mouse. “I proceed*. ‘Edwin and Morcar, the earls of Mercia and Northumbria, declared for* him; and even Stigand, the patriotic archbishop of Canterbury, found it advisable —’ ”

TO FROWN: draw the eyebrows together, causing lines on the forehead

TO PROCEED: continue

TO DECLARE FOR: say that one is in favour of



“Found *what?*” said the Duck.

“Found *it*,” the Mouse replied rather crossly: “of course you know what ‘it’ means.”

“I know what ‘it’ means well enough, when I find a thing,” said the Duck: “it’s generally a frog*, or a worm. The question is, what did the archbishop find?” The Mouse did not notice this question, but

FROG: small, cold-blooded, jumping animal living in water and on land

hurriedly went on, “ ‘— found it advisable to go with Edgar Atheling* to meet William and offer him the crown. William’s conduct* at first was moderate*. But the insolence* of his Normans —’ How are you getting on now, my dear?” it continued, turning to Alice as it spoke.

“As wet as ever,” said Alice in a melancholy tone: “it doesn’t seem to dry me at all.”

“In that case,” said the Dodo solemnly*, rising to its feet, “I move that the meeting adjourn*, for the immediate adoption* of more energetic remedies* —”

“Speak English!” said the Eaglet. “I don’t know the meaning of half those long words, and, what’s more, I don’t believe you do either!” And the Eaglet bent down its head to hide a smile: some of the other birds tittered audibly*.

“What I was going to say,” said the Dodo in an offended tone, “was, that the best thing to get us dry would be a Caucus-race.”²

“What *is* a Caucus-race?” said Alice; not that she much wanted to know, but the Dodo had paused as if it thought that *somebody* ought to speak, and no one else seemed inclined* to say anything.

“Why,” said the Dodo, “the best way to explain it is to do it.” (And, as you might like to try the thing yourself, some winter-day, I will tell you how the Dodo managed it.)

First it marked out a race-course, in a sort of circle, (“the exact shape* doesn’t matter,” it said,) and then all the party were placed along the course, here and there. There was no “One, two, three, and away!” but they began running when they liked, and

² The term ‘caucus’ originated in the United States in reference to a meeting of the leaders of a faction (discontented group of persons within a party) to decide on a candidate or policy. It was adopted in England with a slightly different meaning, referring to a system of highly disciplined party organization by committees. It was generally used by one party as

an abusive (insulting) term for the organization of an opposing party. Carroll may have intended his caucus-race to symbolize the fact that committee members generally do a lot of running around in circles, getting nowhere, and with every body wanting a political plum.

EDGAR ATHELING: English prince; initially an opponent of William the Conqueror, he later accepted him as king

CONDUCT: manner | MODERATE: not extreme | INSOLENC: insulting, offensive behaviour

SOLEMN: grave

ADJOURN: break off a meeting for a time

ADOPTION: acceptance, e.g., report or recommendation | REMEDY: sth used for putting right sth that is wrong

TO TITTER: give a silly, half-surprised little laugh | AUDIBLE: loud enough to be heard

INCLINED: to wish

SHAPE: form

left off when they liked, so that it was not easy to know when the race was over. However, when they had been running half an hour or so, and were quite dry again, the Dodo suddenly called out “The race is over!” and they all crowded round it, panting*, and asking “But who has won?”

TO PANT: take short, quick breaths

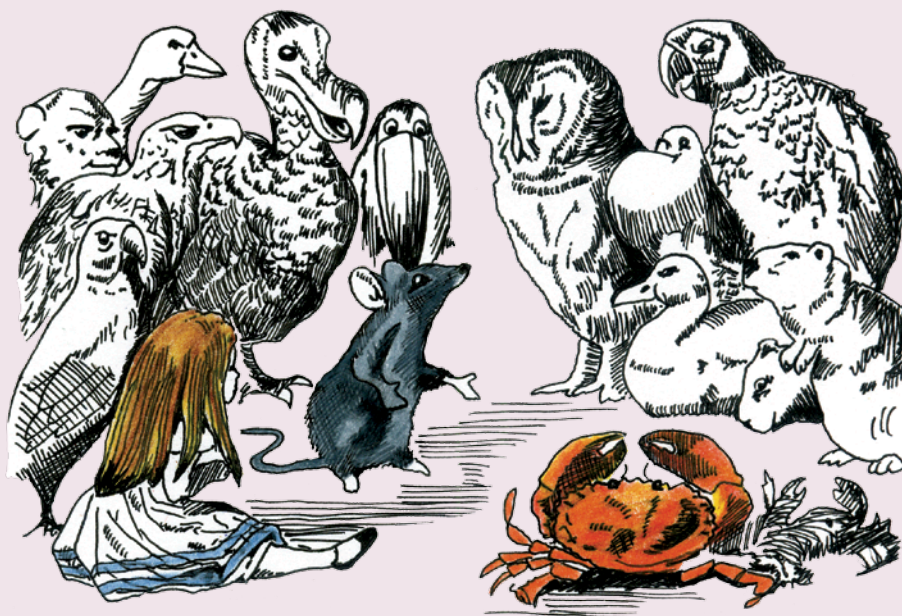
This question the Dodo could not answer without a great deal of thought, and it stood for a long time with one finger pressed upon its forehead (the position in which you usually see Shakespeare*, in the pictures of him), while the rest waited in silence. At last the Dodo said “Everybody has won, and all must have prizes.”

SHAKESPEARE: English poet and dramatist (1564-1616)

“But who is to give the prizes?” quite a chorus of voices asked.

“Why, she, of course,” said the Dodo, pointing to Alice with one finger; and the whole party at once crowded round her, calling out, in a confused way, “Prizes! Prizes!”

Alice had no idea what to do, and in despair she put her hand in her pocket, and pulled out a box of comfits³ (luckily the salt water had not got into it),



³ Comfits are hard sweetmeats made by preserving dried fruits or seeds with sugar and covering them with a thin coating of syrup.

and handed them round as prizes. There was exactly one a-piece, all round.

“But she must have a prize herself, you know,” said the Mouse.

“Of course,” the Dodo replied* very gravely*. “What else have you got in your pocket?” it went on, turning to Alice.

“Only a thimble*,” said Alice sadly.

“Hand it over here,” said the Dodo.

Then they all crowded round her once more, while the Dodo solemnly presented the thimble, saying “We beg your acceptance of this elegant thimble”; and, when it had finished this short speech, they all cheered.

Alice thought the whole thing very absurd, but they all looked so grave that she did not dare to laugh; and, as she could not think of anything to say, she simply bowed*, and took the thimble, looking as solemn as she could.

The next thing was to eat the comfits: this caused some noise and confusion, as the large birds complained* that they could not taste theirs, and the small ones choked* and had to be patted* on the back. However, it was over at last, and they sat down again in a ring, and begged the Mouse to tell them something more.

“You promised to tell me your history, you know,” said Alice, “and why it is you hate — C and D*,” she added in a whisper, half afraid that it would be offended again.

“Mine is a long and a sad tale!” said the Mouse, turning to Alice, and sighing.

“It is a long tail*, certainly,” said Alice, looking down with wonder at the Mouse’s tail; “but why do you call it sad?” And she kept on puzzling about it while the Mouse was speaking, so that her idea of the tale was something like this: —⁴

TO REPLY: **answer** | GRAVE: **serious**

THIMBLE: **cap (of metal, etc .) used to protect the end of the finger when pushing a needle through cloth**

TO BOW: **bend the head or body (as a sign of respect or as a greeting)**

TO COMPLAIN: **say that one is not satisfied**

TO CHOKE: **be unable to breathe because of sth in the windpipe** | TO PAT: **tap gently with the open hand**

C AND D: **cats and dogs**

TAIL: **movable part at the end of the body of e.g. a cat, dog, fish**

⁴ *The mouse’s tale is perhaps the best-known example in English of emblematic, or figured, verse: poems printed in such a way that they resemble something related to the subject matter.*

“Fury said to a mouse,
That he met in
the house, ‘Let
us both go
to law*: I will
prosecute*
you. — Come,
I’ll take no
denial*: We
must have
the trial*;
For really
this morning
I’ve nothing
to do.’ Said
the mouse
to the
cur*, ‘Such
a trial,
dear sir,
“With no
jury or
judge,
would be
wasting
our breath.’
‘I’ll be
judge, I’ll
be jury,’
said
cunning*
old Fury:
I’ll Try
The
Whole
cause,
and
condemn*
you to
death.’ ”

TO GO TO LAW: appeal to the law courts
TO PROSECUTE: start legal proceedings

DENIAL: statement that sth is not true

TRIAL: examination in a law court before a
judge (or judge and jury)

CUR: low-bred dog

CUNNING: being clever at deceiving

TO CONDEMN SB (TO): give judgement
against

“You are not attending*!” said the Mouse to Alice, severely. “What are you thinking of?”

“I beg your pardon,” said Alice very humbly*: “you had got to the fifth bend*, I think?”

“I had *not!*” cried the Mouse, sharply and very angrily.

“A knot*!” said Alice, always ready to make herself useful, and looking anxiously about her “Oh, do let me help to undo it!”

“I shall do nothing of the sort,” said the Mouse, getting up and walking away. “You insult* me by talking such nonsense!”

“I didn’t mean it!” pleaded* poor Alice. “But you’re so easily offended, you know!”

The Mouse only growled* in reply.

“Please come back, and finish your story!” Alice called after it. And the others all joined in chorus “Yes, please do!” But the Mouse only shook its head impatiently, and walked a little quicker.

“What a pity it wouldn’t stay!” sighed the Lory, as soon as it was quite out of sight. And an old Crab took the opportunity of saying to her daughter “Ah, my dear! Let this be a lesson to you never to lose *your** temper*!” “Hold your tongue*, Ma!” said the young Crab, a little snappishly*. “You’re enough to try the patience* of an oyster*!”

“I wish I had our Dinah here, I know I do!” said Alice aloud, addressing* nobody in particular. “*She’d* soon fetch it back!”

“And who is Dinah, if I might venture to ask the question?” said the Lory.

Alice replied eagerly, for she was always ready to talk about her pet*: “Dinah’s our cat. And she’s such a capital one for catching mice, you ca’n’t think! And oh, I wish you could see her after the birds! Why, she’ll eat a little bird as soon as look at it!”

This speech caused a remarkable sensation among the party. Some of the birds hurried off at once: one

TO ATTEND: **give care and thought to**

HUMBLY: **very modestly**

BEND: **turn**

KNOT: **part of one or more pieces of string twisted together to make a fastening**

TO INSULT: **speak or act in a way that hurts a person’s feelings or dignity**

TO PLEAD: **ask earnestly**

TO GROWL: **make a low, threatening noise**

TO LOSE ONE’S TEMPER: **become angry |**

HOLD YOUR TONGUE!: **Be quiet! |**

SNAPPISHLY: **in an ill-tempered, irritated**

way | TO TRY ONE’S PATIENCE: *Dutch:*
iemands geduld op de proef stellen

OYSTER: ***Dutch:* oester**

TO ADDRESS: **speak to**

PET: **animal kept as a companion, treated with care and affection**

old Magpie* began wrapping itself up very carefully, remarking “I really must be getting home: the night-air doesn’t suit my throat!” And a Canary called out in a trembling voice, to its children, “Come away, my dears! It’s high time you were all in bed!” On various pretexts* they all moved off, and Alice was soon left alone.

MAGPIE: *Dutch: ekster*

“I wish I hadn’t mentioned Dinah!” she said to herself in a melancholy tone. “Nobody seems to like her, down here, and I’m sure she’s the best cat in the world! Oh, my dear Dinah! I wonder if I shall ever see you any more!” And here poor Alice began to cry again, for she felt very lonely and low-spirited*. In a little while, however, she again heard a little pattering of footsteps in the distance, and she looked up eagerly, half hoping that the Mouse had changed his mind, and was coming back to finish his story.

PRETEXT: *false reason*

LOW-SPIRITED: *down-hearted*

CHAPTER IV

The Rabbit Sends in a Little Bill

It was the White Rabbit, trotting slowly back again, and looking anxiously about as it went, as if it had lost something; and she heard it muttering to itself, “The Duchess! the Duchess! Oh my dear paws! Oh my fur and whiskers! She’ll get me executed, as sure as ferrets* are ferrets! —Where can I have dropped them, I wonder?” Alice guessed in a moment that it was looking for the fan and the pair of white kid-gloves, and she very good-naturedly began hunting about for them, but they were nowhere to be seen — everything seemed to have changed since her swim in the pool; and the great hall, with the glass table and the little door, had vanished* completely. Very soon the Rabbit noticed Alice, as she went hunting about, and called out to her, in an angry tone, “Why, Mary Ann, what are you doing out here? Run home this moment, and fetch me a pair of gloves and a fan! Quick, now!” And Alice was so much frightened that she ran off at once in the direction it pointed to, without trying to explain the mistake that it had made.

“He took me for his housemaid,” she said to herself as she ran. “How surprised he’ll be when he finds out who I am! But I’d better take him his fan and gloves — that is, if I can find them.” As she said this, she came upon a neat little house, on the door of which was a bright brass plate with the name “W. RABBIT” engraved upon it. She went in without knocking, and hurried upstairs, in great fear lest* she should meet the real Mary Ann, and be turned out of the house before she had found the fan and gloves.

FERRET: *Dutch: fret*

TO VANISH: *disappear*

LEST: *that*

“How queer it seems,” Alice said to herself, “to be going messages for a rabbit! I suppose Dinah’ll be sending me on messages next!” And she began fancying the sort of thing that would happen: “ ‘Miss Alice! Come here directly, and get ready for your walk!’ ‘Coming in a minute, nurse! But I’ve got to watch this mouse-hole till Dinah comes back, and see that the mouse doesn’t get out.’ Only I don’t think,” Alice went on, “that they’d let Dinah stop in the house if it began ordering people about like that!”

By this time she had found her way into a tidy* little room with a table in the window, and on it (as she had hoped) a fan and two or three pairs of tiny white kid-gloves: she took up the fan and a pair of the gloves, and was just going to leave the room, when her eye fell upon a little bottle that stood near the looking-glass*. There was no label this time with the words “DRINK ME,” but nevertheless she uncorked it and put it to her lips. “I know *something* interesting is sure to happen,” she said to herself, “whenever I eat or drink anything: so I’ll just see what this bottle does. I do hope it’ll make me grow large again, for really I’m quite tired of being such a

TIDY: arranged neatly and in order

LOOKING GLASS: mirror



■ ‘Going messages’ is a phrase still used in England. It means ‘running errands.’

tiny little thing!”

It did so indeed, and much sooner than she had expected: before she had drunk half the bottle, she found her head pressing against the ceiling, and had to stoop* to save her neck from being broken. She hastily put down the bottle, saying to herself “That’s quite enough — I hope I sha’n’t grow any more — As it is, I ca’n’t get out at the door — I do wish I hadn’t drunk quite so much!”

Alas! It was too late to wish that! She went on growing, and growing, and very soon had to kneel down on the floor: in another minute there was not even room for this, and she tried the effect of lying down with one elbow against the door, and the other arm curled round her head. Still she went on growing, and, as a last resource, she put one arm out of the window, and one foot up the chimney*, and said to herself “Now I can do no more, whatever happens. What *will* become of me?”

Luckily for Alice, the little magic bottle had now had its full effect, and she grew no larger: still it was very uncomfortable, and, as there seemed to be no sort of chance of her ever getting out of the room again, no wonder she felt unhappy.

“It was much pleasanter at home,” thought poor Alice, “when one wasn’t always growing larger and smaller, and being ordered about by mice and rabbits. I almost wish I hadn’t gone down that rabbithole — and yet — and yet — it’s rather curious, you know, this sort of life! I do wonder what can have happened to me! When I used to read fairy tales, I fancied that kind of thing never happened, and now here I am in the middle of one! There ought to be a book written about me, that there ought! And when I grow* up, I’ll write one — but I’m grown up* now,” she added in a sorrowful* tone: “at least there’s no room to grow up any more *here*.”

“But then,” thought Alice, “shall I never get any

TO STOOP: **bend the neck so that the head is forward and down**

CHIMNEY: **structure through which smoke from a fire is carried away through the roof of a building**

TO GROW UP: **be an adult** | TO BE GROWN UP: **be larger**
SORROWFUL: **sad**

older than I am now? That'll be a comfort, one way — never to be an old woman — but then — always to have lessons to learn! Oh, I shouldn't like that!"

"Oh, you foolish Alice!" she answered herself. "How can you learn lessons in here? Why, there's hardly room for *you*, and no room at all for any lesson-books!"

And so she went on, taking first one side and then the other, and making quite a conversation of it altogether; but after a few minutes she heard a voice outside, and stopped to listen.

"Mary Ann! Mary Ann!" said the voice. "Fetch me my gloves this moment!" Then came a little pattering of feet on the stairs. Alice knew it was the Rabbit coming to look for her, and she trembled till she shook the house, quite forgetting that she was now about a thousand times as large as the Rabbit, and had no reason to be afraid of it.

Presently the Rabbit came up to the door, and tried to open it; but, as the door opened inwards, and Alice's elbow was pressed hard against it, that attempt* proved a failure*. Alice heard it say to itself "Then I'll go round and get in at the window."

"*That* you wo'n't!" thought Alice, and, after waiting till she fancied she heard the Rabbit just under the window, she suddenly spread out her hand, and made a snatch* in the air. She did not get hold of anything, but she heard a little shriek and a fall, and a crash of broken glass, from which she concluded that it was just possible it had fallen into a cucumber-frame,² or something of the sort. Next came an angry voice — the Rabbit's — "Pat! Pat! Where are you?" And then a voice she had never heard before, "Sure then I'm here! Digging for apples, yer honour*!"

"Digging for apples, indeed!" said the Rabbit angrily. "Here! Come and help me out of *this*!"

ATTEMPT: try | PROVED A FAILURE: turned out to be without success

TO SNATCH: sudden attempt to get sth by stretching out the hand

YER HONOUR: (Your Honour) title of respect used to (of) judges

² A cucumber-frame is a glass frame that provides heat for growing cucumbers by trapping radiation from the sun.



(Sounds of more broken glass.)

“Now tell me, Pat, what’s that in the window?”

“Sure, it’s an arm, yer honour!” (He pronounced it “arrum.”)

“An arm, you goose! Who ever saw one that size? Why, it fills the whole window!”

“Sure, it does, yer honour: but it’s an arm for all that.”

“Well, it’s got no business there, at any rate: go and take it away!”

There was a long silence after this, and Alice could only hear whispers now and then; such as “Sure, I don’t like it, yer honour, at all, at all!” “Do as I tell you, you coward*!”, and at last she spread out her hand again, and made another snatch in the air. This time there were two little shrieks, and more sounds of broken glass. “What a number of cucumber-frames there must be!” thought Alice. “I wonder what

COWARD: person who runs away from danger

they'll do next! As for pulling me out of the window, I only wish they *could*! I'm sure I don't want to stay in here any longer!"

She waited for some time without hearing anything more: at last came a rumbling* of little cart*-wheels, and the sound of a good many voices all talking together: she made out the words: "Where's the other ladder? — Why, I hadn't to bring but one. Bill's got the other — Bill! Fetch it here, lad*! — Here, put 'em up at this corner — No, tie 'em together First — they don't reach half high enough yet — Oh, they'll do well enough. Don't be particular — Here, Bill! Catch hold of this rope — Will the roof bear? — Mind that loose slate* — Oh, it's coming down! Heads below!" (a loud crash) — "Now, who did that? — It was Bill, I fancy — Who's to go down the chimney? — Nay*, I sha'n't! *You* do it! — *That* I wo'n't, then! — Bill's got to go down — Here, Bill! The master says you've got to go down the chimney!"

"Oh! So Bill's got to come down the chimney, has he?" said Alice to herself. "Why, they seem to put everything upon Bill! I wouldn't be in Bill's place for a good deal: this fireplace is narrow, to be sure; but I *think* I can kick* a little!"

She drew her foot as far down the chimney as she could, and waited till she heard a little animal (she couldn't guess of what sort it was) scratching* and scrambling* about in the chimney close above her: then, saying to herself "This is Bill," she gave one sharp kick, and waited to see what would happen next.

The first thing she heard was a general chorus of "There goes Bill!" then the Rabbit's voice alone — "Catch him, you by the hedge!" then silence, and then another confusion of voices — "Hold up his head — Brandy* now — Don't choke* him — How was it, old fellow? What happened to you? Tell us all about it!"

Last came a little feeble*, squeaking voice ("That's

RUMBLING: deep, heavy continuous sound

CART: two-wheeled vehicle pulled by a horse

LAD: boy ; young man

SLATE: kind of blue-grey stone that splits easily into thin, flat layers, used for roofs

NAY: (old usage) no

TO KICK: hit with the foot

TO SCRATCH: make lines on or in a surface with fingernails or claws | TO SCRAMBLE: climb or crawl over steep or rough ground

BRANDY: Cognac | TO CHOKE: make sb unable to breath

FEEBLE: weak



Bill,” thought Alice), “Well, I hardly know — No more, thank ye; I’m better now — but I’m a deal too flustered* to tell you — all I know is, something comes at me like a Jack-in-the-box*, and up I goes like a sky-rocket!”

“So you did, old fellow!” said the others.

“We must burn the house down!” said the Rabbit’s voice. And Alice called out, as loud as she could, “If you do, I’ll set Dinah at you!”

FLUSTERED: nervous or confused
JACK-IN-THE-BOX: Dutch: duiveltje in een doosje

There was a dead silence instantly, and Alice thought to herself “I wonder what they *will* do next! If they had any sense*, they’d take the roof off.” After a minute or two, they began moving about again, and Alice heard the Rabbit say “A barrowful* will do, to begin with.”

SENSE: *practica l wisdom*

BARROW(FUI): *small cart with two wheels pulled or pushed by hand*

“A barrowful of *what?*” thought Alice. But she had not long to doubt, for the next moment a shower of little pebbles* came rattling in at the window, and some of them hit her in the face. “I’ll put a stop to this,” she said to herself, and shouted out “You’d better not do that again!”, which produced another dead silence.

PEBBLE: *small stone, made smooth and round by being rolled in water*

Alice noticed, with some surprise, that the pebbles were all turning into little cakes as they lay on the floor, and a bright idea came into her head. “If I eat one of these cakes,” she thought, “it’s sure to make *some* change in my size; and, as it ca’n’t possibly make me larger, it must make me smaller, I suppose.”

TO SWALLOW: *cause or allow to go down the throat*

So she swallowed* one of the cakes, and was delighted to find that she began shrinking directly. As soon as she was small enough to get through the door, she ran out of the house, and found quite a crowd of little animals and birds waiting outside. The poor little Lizard*, Bill, was in the middle, being held up by two guinea-pigs*, who were giving it something out of a bottle. They all made a rush at Alice the moment she appeared; but she ran off as hard as she could, and soon found herself safe in a thick wood.

LIZARD: *Dutch: hagedis*

GUINEA-PIG: *Dutch : cavia*

“The first thing I’ve got to do,” said Alice to herself, as she wandered about in the wood, “is to grow to my right size again; and the second thing is to find my way into that lovely garden. I think that will be the best plan.”

It sounded an excellent plan, no doubt, and very neatly and simply arranged: the only difficulty was,

that she had not the smallest idea how to set about it*; and, while she was peering about anxiously among the trees, a little sharp bark just over her head made her look up in a great hurry. An enormous puppy* was looking down at her with large round eyes, and feebly stretching out one paw, trying to touch her. "Poor little thing!" said Alice, in a coaxing* tone, and she tried hard to whistle to it; but she was terribly frightened all the time at the thought that it might be hungry, in which case it would be very likely to eat her up in spite of all her coaxing.

Hardly knowing what she did, she picked up a little bit of stick, and held it out to the puppy: whereupon the puppy jumped into the air off all its feet at once, with a yelp* of delight, and rushed at the stick, and made believe to worry it: then Alice dodged* behind a great thistle*, to keep herself from being run over; and, the moment she appeared on the other side, the puppy made another rush at the

TO SET ABOUT IT: **take steps towards**

PUPPY: **young dog**

TO COAX: **get sb to do sth by kindness or patience**

YELP: **short sharp cry**

TO DODGE: **move quickly to one side in order to avoid or escape sth.** | THISTLE: **wild plant with prickly leaves and yellow, white or purple flowers**



stick, and tumbled head over heels in its hurry to get hold of it: then Alice, thinking it was very like having a game of play with a cart-horse, and expecting every moment to be trampled* under its feet, ran round the thistle again: then the puppy began a series of short charges* at the stick, running a very little way forwards each time and a long way back, and barking hoarsely all the while, till at last it sat down a good way off, panting, with its tongue hanging out of its mouth, and its great eyes half shut.

This seemed to Alice a good opportunity for making her escape: so she set off at once, and ran till she was quite tired and out of breath, and till the puppy's bark sounded quite faint in the distance.

“And yet what a dear little puppy it was!” said Alice, as she leant against a buttercup* to rest herself, and fanned herself with one of the leaves. “I should have liked teaching it tricks very much, if — if I'd only been the right size to do it! Oh dear! I'd nearly forgotten that I've got to grow up again! Let me see — how is it to be managed? I suppose I ought to eat or drink something or other; but the great question is ‘What?’

“The great question certainly was “What?” Alice looked all round her at the flowers and the blades* of grass, but she could not see anything that looked like the right thing to eat or drink under the circumstances. There was a large mushroom* growing near her, about the same height as herself; and, when she had looked under it, and on both sides of it, and behind it, it occurred to her that she might as well look and see what was on the top of it.

She stretched herself up on tiptoe, and peeped over the edge of the mushroom, and her eyes immediately met those of a large blue caterpillar*, that was sitting on the top, with its arms folded, quietly smoking a long hookah*, and taking not the smallest notice of her or of anything else.

TO TRAMPLE: **crush under the feet**

CHARGE: **attack**

BUTTERCUP: **wild plant with yellow flowers**

BLADE: **flat, long narrow leaf, esp. of grass and cereals**

MUSHROOM: *Dutch:* **paddestoel**

CATERPILLAR: **larva of a butterfly or moth**

HOOKAH: *Dutch:* **waterpijp**

CHAPTER V

Advice from a Caterpillar



The Caterpillar and Alice looked at each other for some time in silence: at last the Caterpillar took the hookah out of its mouth, and addressed her in a languid*, sleepy voice.

“Who are *you*?” said the Caterpillar.

This was not an encouraging opening for a conversation. Alice replied, rather shyly*, “I — I hardly know, Sir, just at present — at least I know who I *was* when I got up this morning, but I think I must have been changed several times since then.”

“What do you mean by that?” said the Caterpillar,

LANGUID: **lacking in energy**

SHYLY: **in a self-conscious and uncomfortable way in the presence of others**

sternly* . “Explain yourself!”

STERNLY: *severely*

“I ca’n’t explain *myself*, I’m afraid, Sir,” said Alice, “because I’m not myself, you see.”

“I don’t see,” said the Caterpillar.

“I’m afraid I ca’n’t put it more clearly,” Alice replied, very politely, “for I ca’n’t understand it myself, to begin with; and being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing.”

“It isn’t,” said the Caterpillar.

“Well, perhaps you haven’t found it so yet,” said Alice; “but when you have to turn into a chrysalis* — you will some day, you know — and then after that into a butterfly, I should think you’ll feel it a little queer, wo’n’t you?”

CHRYSALIS: *form taken by an insect during the inactive period of its life*

Not a bit,” said the Caterpillar. “Well, perhaps *your* feelings may be different,” said Alice: “all I know is, it would feel very queer to *me*.”

“You!” said the Caterpillar contemptuously* .

CONTEMPTUOUS(LY): *with total disregard*

“Who are *you*?”

Which brought them back again to the beginning of the conversation. Alice felt a little irritated at the Caterpillar’s making such *very* short remarks, and she drew herself up and said, very gravely, “I think you ought to tell me who *you* are, first.”

“Why?” said the Caterpillar. Here was another puzzling question; and, as Alice could not think of any good reason, and the Caterpillar seemed to be in a *very* unpleasant state of mind, she turned away.

“Come back!” the Caterpillar called after her. “I’ve something important to say!”

This sounded promising, certainly. Alice turned and came back again.

“Keep your temper,” said the Caterpillar.

“Is that all?” said Alice, swallowing down her anger as well as she could.

“No,” said the Caterpillar.

Alice thought she might as well wait, as she had nothing else to do, and perhaps after all it might tell

her something worth hearing. For some minutes it puffed away without speaking; but at last it unfolded its arms, took the hookah out of its mouth again, and said “So you think you’re changed, do you?”

“I’m afraid I am, Sir,” said Alice. “I ca’n’t remember things as I used — and I don’t keep the same size for ten minutes together!”

“Ca’n’t remember what things?” said the Caterpillar.

“Well, I’ve tried to say ‘*How doth the little busy bee,*’ but it all came different!” Alice replied in a very melancholy voice.

“Repeat ‘*You are old, Father William,*’ “ said the Caterpillar.

Alice folded her hands, and began: — ■

■ ‘*You are old, father William,*’ one of the undisputed masterpieces of nonsense verse, is a clever parody of Robert Southey’s (1774- 1843) long-forgotten didactic poem, *The Old Man’s Comforts and How He Cained Them*.

‘*You are old, father William,*’ the young man cried,
‘*The few locks which are left you are grey;*
You are hale, father William, a hearty old man;
Now tell me the reason, I pray.’

‘*In the days of my youth,*’ father William replied,
‘*I remember’d that youth would fly fast,*
That I never might need them at last.’

‘*You are old, father William,*’ the young man cried,
‘*And pleasures with youth pass away.*

And yet you lament not the days that are gone;
Now tell me the reason, I pray.’

‘*In the days of my youth,*’ father William replied,
‘*I remember’d that youth could not last;*
I thought of the future, whatever I did,
That I never might grieve for the past.’

‘*You are old, father William,*’ the young man cried,
‘*And life must be hast’ning away;*
You are cheerful and love to converse upon death;
Now tell me the reason, I pray.

‘*I am cheerful, young man,*’ father William replied,
‘*Let the cause thy attention engage;*
In the days of my youth I remember’d my God!
And He hath not forgotten my age.’

*“You are old, Father William,” the young man said,
“And your hair has become very white;
And yet you incessantly* stand on your head —
Do you think, at your age, it is right?”*

INCESSANT: **continual**

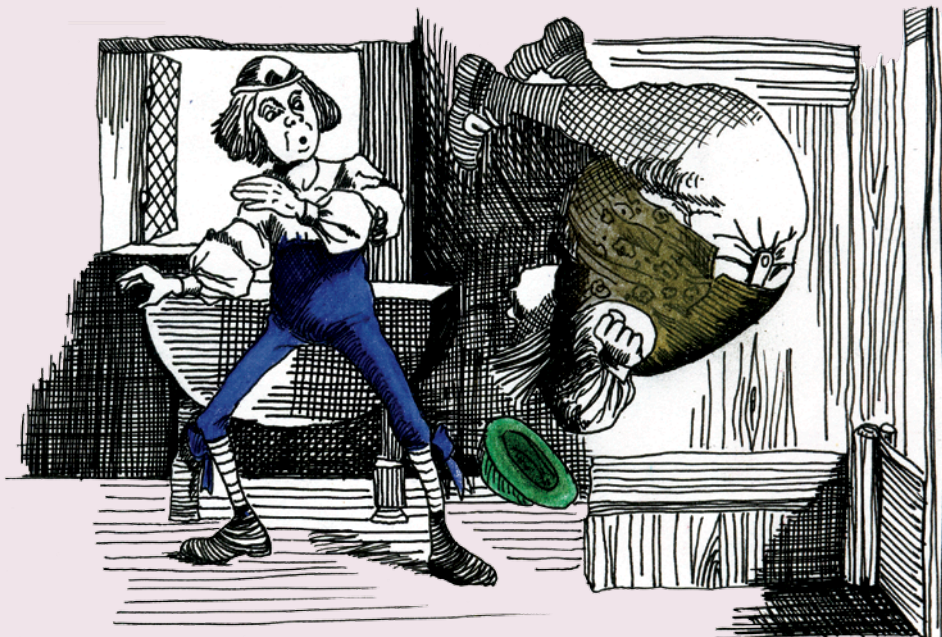


*“In my youth,” Father William replied to his son,
“I feared it might injure* the brain;
But, now that I’m perfectly sure I have none,
Why, I do it again and again.”*

TO INJURE: **damage**

*“You are old,” said the youth, “as I mentioned before,
And have grown most uncommonly fat;
Yet you turned a back-somersault* in at the door —
Pray, what is the reason of that?”*

SOMERSAULT: **leap or fall in which one
turns heels over head before landing on
one’s feet**



“In my youth,” said the sage , as he shook his grey locks,
“I kept all my limbs* very supple*
By the use of this ointment* — one shilling the box —
Allow me to sell you a couple?”*

SAGE: wise man

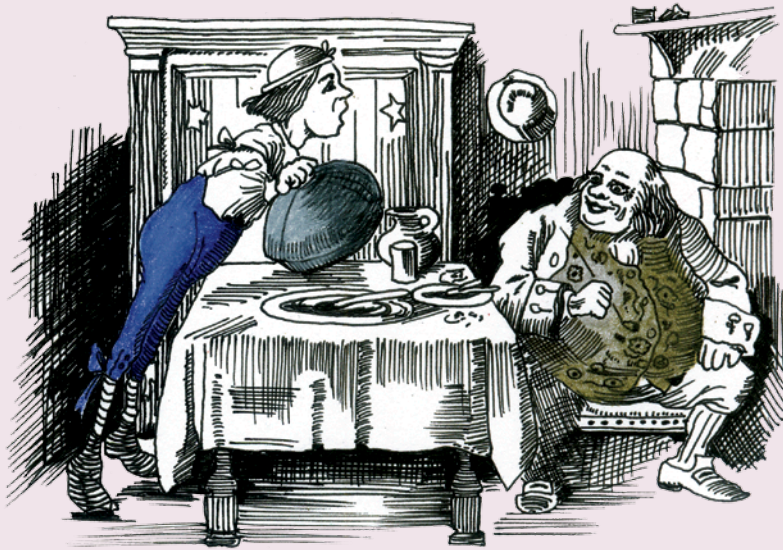
LIMB: leg, arm or wing | SUPPLE: not stiff

OINTMENT: medicinal paste made from oil
or fat, to be used on the skin

*“You are old,” said the youth, “and your jaws are too weak
For anything tougher than suet*;
Yet you finished the goose, with the bones and the beak* —
Pray, how did you manage to do it?”*

SUET: hard fat round the kidneys of sheep

or oxen | BEAK: hard, horny part of bird’s
mouth

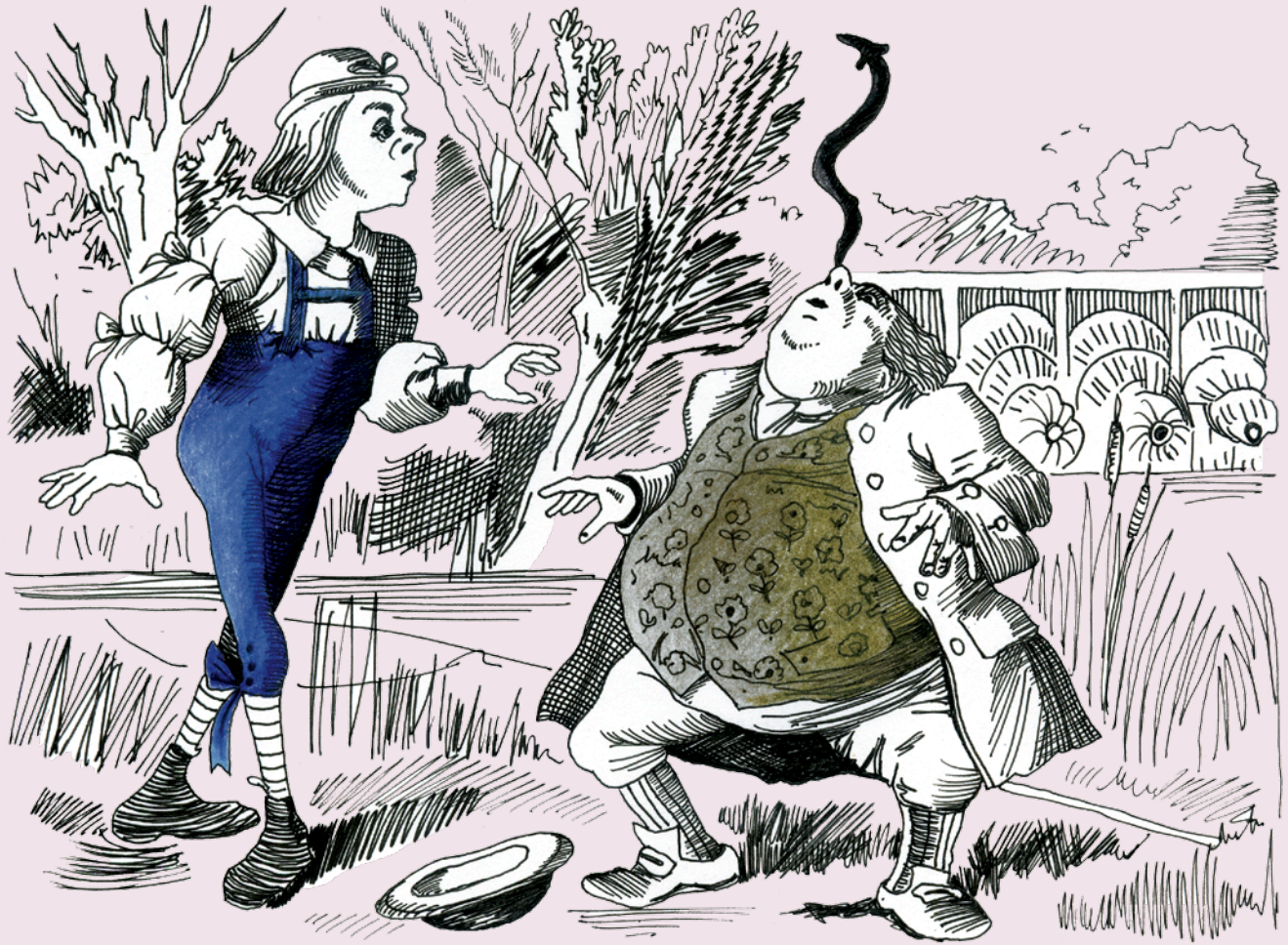


“In my youth,” said his father, “I took to the law,
And argued each case with my wife;
And the muscular strength, which it gave to my jaw
Has lasted the rest of my life.”*

TO TAKE TO: adopt as a practice; use as a
means of escape

*“You are old,” said the youth, “one would hardly
suppose
That your eye was as steady as ever;
Yet you balanced an eel* on the end of your nose —
What made you so awfully clever?”*

EEL: Dutch: paling



*“I have answered three questions, and that is enough,”
Said his father. “Don’t give yourself airs*!
Do you think I can listen all day to such stuff?
Be off, or I’ll kick you down-stairs!”*

TO GIVE ONESELF AIRS: **behave in an
unnatural way in the hope of impressing
people**

“That is not said right,” said the Caterpillar.

“Not *quite* right, I’m afraid,” said Alice, timidly:
“some of the words have got altered.”

“It is wrong from beginning to end,” said the
Caterpillar, decidedly; and there was silence for some
minutes.

The Caterpillar was the first to speak.”What size
do you want to be?” it asked.

“Oh, I’m not particular as to size,” Alice hastily
replied; “only one doesn’t like changing so often, you
know.”

“I *don't* know,” said the Caterpillar.

Alice said nothing: she had never been so much contradicted* in all her life before, and she felt that she was losing her temper.

“Are you content now?” said the Caterpillar.

“Well, I should like to be a *little* larger, Sir, if you wouldn't mind,” said Alice: “three inches is such a wretched* height to be.

“It is a very good height indeed!” said the Caterpillar angrily, rearing* itself upright as it spoke (it was exactly three inches high).

“But I'm not used to it!” pleaded poor Alice in a piteous tone. And she thought to herself “I wish the creatures wouldn't be so easily offended!”

“You'll get used to it in time,” said the Caterpillar; and it put the hookah into its mouth, and began smoking again.

This time Alice waited patiently until it chose to speak again. In a minute or two the Caterpillar took the hookah out of its mouth, and yawned* once or twice, and shook itself. Then it got down off the mushroom, and crawled away into the grass, merely* remarking, as it went, “One side will make you grow taller, and the other side will make you grow shorter.”

“One side of *what?* The other side of *what?*” thought Alice to herself.

“Of the mushroom,” said the Caterpillar, just as if she had asked it aloud; and in another moment it was out of sight.

Alice remained looking thoughtfully at the mushroom for a minute, trying to make out which were the two sides of it; and, as it was perfectly round, she found this a very difficult question. However, at last she stretched her arms round it as far as they would go, and broke off a bit of the edge with each hand.

“And now which is which?” she said to herself, and nibbled* a little of the right-hand bit to try the

TO CONTRADICT: deny the truth of what sb says

WRETCHED: bad

TO REAR: rise

TO YAWN: open the mouth wide as when sleepy or bored

MERELY: only, simply

TO NIBBLE: take tiny bites

effect. The next moment she felt a violent blow underneath her chin: it had struck her foot! She was a good deal frightened by this very sudden change, but she felt that there was no time to be lost, as she was shrinking rapidly: so she set to work at once to eat some of the other bit. Her chin was pressed so closely against her foot, that there was hardly room to open her mouth; but she did it at last, and managed to swallow a morsel* of the left-hand bit.

MORSEL: *tiny piece; mouthful*

“Come, my head’s free at last!” said Alice in a tone of delight, which changed into alarm in another moment, when she found that her shoulders were nowhere to be found: all she could see, when she looked down, was an immense length of neck, which seemed to rise like a stalk* out of a sea of green leaves that lay far below her. “What *can* all that green stuff be?” said Alice. “And where *have* my shoulders got to? And oh, my poor hands, how is it I ca’n’t see you?” She was moving them about, as she spoke, but no result seemed to follow, except a little shaking among the distant green leaves.

STALK: *stem*

As there seemed to be no chance of getting her hands up to her head, she tried to get her head down to *them*, and was delighted to find that her neck would bend about easily in any direction, like a serpent. She had just succeeded in curving it down into a graceful zigzag, and was going to dive in among the leaves, which she found to be nothing but the tops of the trees under which she had been wandering, when a sharp hiss made her draw back in a hurry: a large pigeon* had flown into her face, and was beating her violently with its wings.

PIGEON: *Dutch: duif*

“Serpent*!” screamed the Pigeon.

SERPENT: *snake*

“I’m *not* a serpent!” said Alice indignantly. “Let me alone!”

“Serpent, I say again!” repeated the Pigeon, but in a more subdued tone, and added, with a kind of sob, “I’ve tried every way, but nothing seems to suit

them!”

“I haven’t the least idea what you’re talking about,” said Alice.

“I’ve tried the roots of trees, and I’ve tried banks, and I’ve tried hedges,” the Pigeon went on, without attending to her; “but those serpents! There’s no pleasing them!”

Alice was more and more puzzled, but she thought there was no use in saying anything more till the Pigeon had finished.

“As if it wasn’t trouble enough hatching* the eggs,” said the Pigeon; “but I must be on the look-out for serpents, night and day! Why, I haven’t had a wink of sleep these three weeks!”

TO HATCH: (cause to) break out of an egg

“I’m very sorry you’ve been annoyed*,” said Alice, who was beginning to see its meaning.

TO ANNOY: make rather angry

“And just as I’d taken the highest tree in the wood,” continued the Pigeon, raising its voice to a shriek, “and just as I was thinking I should be free of them at last, they must needs come wriggling down from the sky! Ugh, Serpent!”

“But I’m *not* a serpent, I tell you!” said Alice. “I’m a — I’m a —”

“Well! *What* are you?” said the Pigeon. “I can see you’re trying to invent something!”

“I — I’m a little girl,” said Alice, rather doubtfully, as she remembered the number of changes she had gone through, that day.

“A likely story indeed!” said the Pigeon, in a tone of the deepest contempt*. “I’ve seen a good many little girls in my time, but never *one* with such a neck as that! No, no! You’re a serpent; and there’s no use denying it. I suppose you’ll be telling me next that you never tasted an egg!”

CONTEMPT: mental attitude of despising

“I have *tasted* eggs, certainly,” said Alice, who was a very truthful child; “but little girls eat eggs quite as much as serpents do, you know.”

“I don’t believe it,” said the Pigeon; “but if they

do, why, then they're a kind of serpent: that's all I can say."

This was such a new idea to Alice, that she was quite silent for a minute or two, which gave the Pigeon the opportunity of adding "You're looking for eggs, I know that well enough; and what does it matter to me whether you're a little girl or a serpent?"

"It matters a good deal to *me*," said Alice hastily; "but I'm not looking for eggs, as it happens; and, if I was, I shouldn't want *yours*: I don't like them raw."

"Well, be off, then!" said the Pigeon in a sulky tone, as it settled down again into its nest. Alice crouched* down among the trees as well as she could, for her neck kept getting entangled* among the branches, and every now and then she had to stop and untwist* it. After a while she remembered that she still held the pieces of mushroom in her hands, and she set to work very carefully, nibbling first at one and then at the other, and growing sometimes taller, and sometimes shorter, until she had succeeded in bringing herself down to her usual height.

It was so long since she had been anything near the right size, that it felt quite strange at first; but she got used to it in a few minutes, and began talking to herself, as usual, "Come, there's half my plan done now! How puzzling all these changes are! I'm never sure what I'm going to be, from one minute to another! However, I've got back to my right size: the next thing is, to get into that beautiful garden — how is that to be done, I wonder?" As she said this, she came suddenly upon an open place, with a little house in it about four feet high. "Whoever lives there," thought Alice, "it'll never do to come upon them *this* size: why, I should frighten them out of their wits*!" So she began nibbling at the right-hand bit again, and did not venture to go near the house till she had brought herself down to nine inches high.

TO CROUCH: lower the body with the limbs together | TO ENTANGLE: catch among

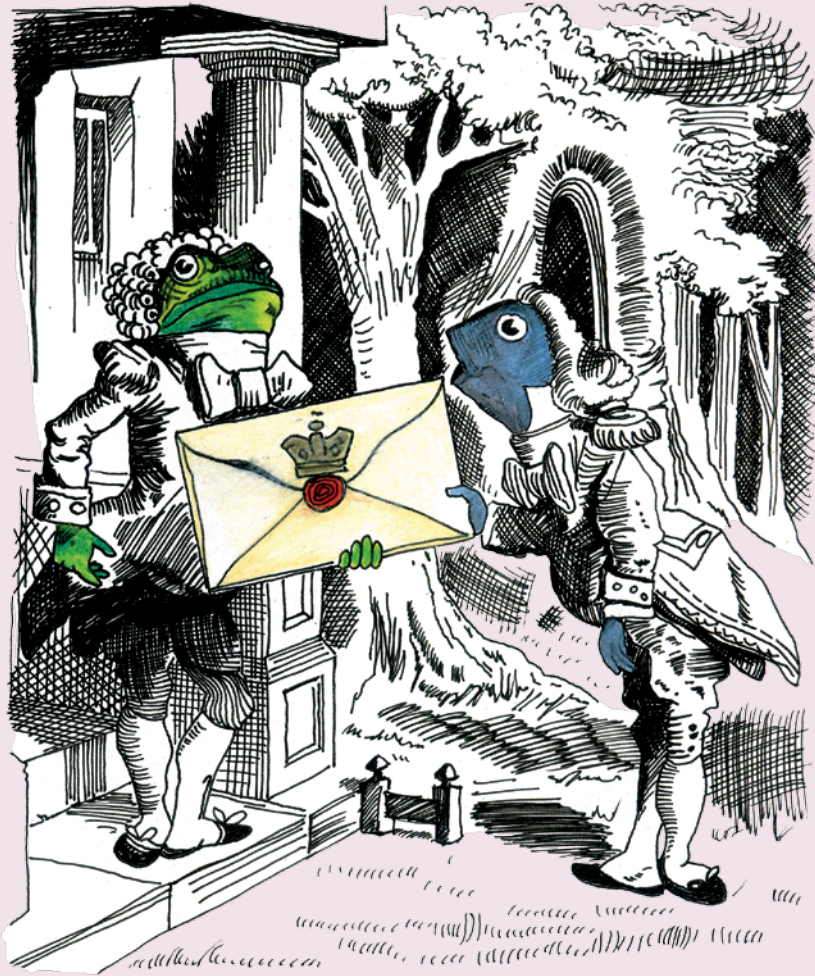
obstacles

TO UNTWIST: turn to get loose

I SHOULD FRIGHTEN THEM OUT OF THEIR WITS: I should frighten them greatly

CHAPTER VI

Pig and Pepper



For a minute or two she stood looking at the house, and wondering what to do next, when suddenly a footman* in livery* came running out of the wood — (she considered him to be a footman because he was in livery: otherwise, judging by his face only, she would have called him a fish) — and rapped loudly at the door with his knuckles*. It was opened by another footman in livery, with a round face, and large eyes like a frog; and both footmen, Alice noticed, had powdered hair that curled all over their heads. She felt very curious to know what it was all

FOOTMAN: man servant who admits visitors, waits at a table | LIVERY: special dress or uniform worn by male servants

KNUCKLE: bone at a finger-joint

about, and crept a little way out of the wood to listen.

The Fish-Footman began by producing from under his arm a great letter, nearly as large as himself, and this he handed over to the other, saying, in a solemn tone, “For the Duchess. An invitation from the Queen to play croquet.” The Frog-Footman repeated, in the same solemn tone, only changing the order of the words a little, “From the Queen. An invitation for the Duchess to play croquet.”

Then they both bowed low, and their curls got entangled together. Alice laughed so much at this, that she had to run back into the wood for fear of their hearing her; and, when she next peeped out, the Fish-Footman was gone, and the other was sitting on the ground near the door, staring stupidly up into the sky.

Alice went timidly up to the door, and knocked.

“There’s no sort of use in knocking,” said the Footman, “and that for two reasons. First, because I’m on the same side of the door as you are: secondly, because they’re making such a noise inside, no one could possibly hear you.” And certainly there was a most extraordinary noise going on within — a constant howling* and sneezing*, and every now and then a great crash, as if a dish or kettle had been broken to pieces.

“Please, then,” said Alice, “how am I to get in?”

“There might be some sense in your knocking,” the Footman went on, without attending to her, “if we had the door between us. For instance, if you were *inside*, you might knock, and I could let you out, you know.”

He was looking up into the sky all the time he was speaking, and this Alice thought decidedly uncivil*. “But perhaps he can’t help it,” she said to herself; “his eyes are so *very* nearly at the top of his head. But at any rate he might answer questions.— How am I to get in?” she repeated, aloud.

HOWLING: long, loud cry | SNEEZING: sudden, uncontrollable outburst of air through nose and mouth

UNCIVIL: impolite

“I shall sit here,” the Footman remarked, “till tomorrow —”

At this moment the door of the house opened, and a large plate came *skimming** out, straight at the Footman’s head: it just *grazed** his nose, and broke to pieces against one of the trees behind him.” — or next day, maybe,” the Footman continued in the same tone, exactly as if nothing had happened.

“How am I to get in?” asked Alice again, in a louder tone.

“*Are* you to get in at all?” said the Footman. “That’s the first question, you know.”

It was, no doubt: only Alice did not like to be told so. “It’s really dreadful,” she muttered to herself, “the way all the creatures argue. It’s enough to drive one crazy!”

The Footman seemed to think this a good opportunity for repeating his remark, with variations. “I shall sit here,” he said, “on and off, for days and days.”

“But what am *I* to do?” said Alice.

“Anything you like,” said the Footman, and began whistling.

“Oh, there’s no use in talking to him,” said Alice desperately: “he’s perfectly idiotic!” And she opened the door and went in. The door led right into a large kitchen, which was full of smoke from one end to the other: the Duchess was sitting on a three-legged stool* in the middle, nursing a baby: the cook was leaning over the fire, stirring a large cauldron* which seemed to be full of soup.

“There’s certainly too much pepper in that soup!” Alice said to herself, as well as she could for sneezing. There was certainly too much of it in the *air*. Even the Duchess sneezed occasionally; and as for the baby, it was sneezing and howling alternately without a moment’s pause. The only two creatures in the kitchen, that did *not* sneeze, were the cook,

TO SKIM: **move lightly over a surface, only lightly or occasionally touching it** | TO

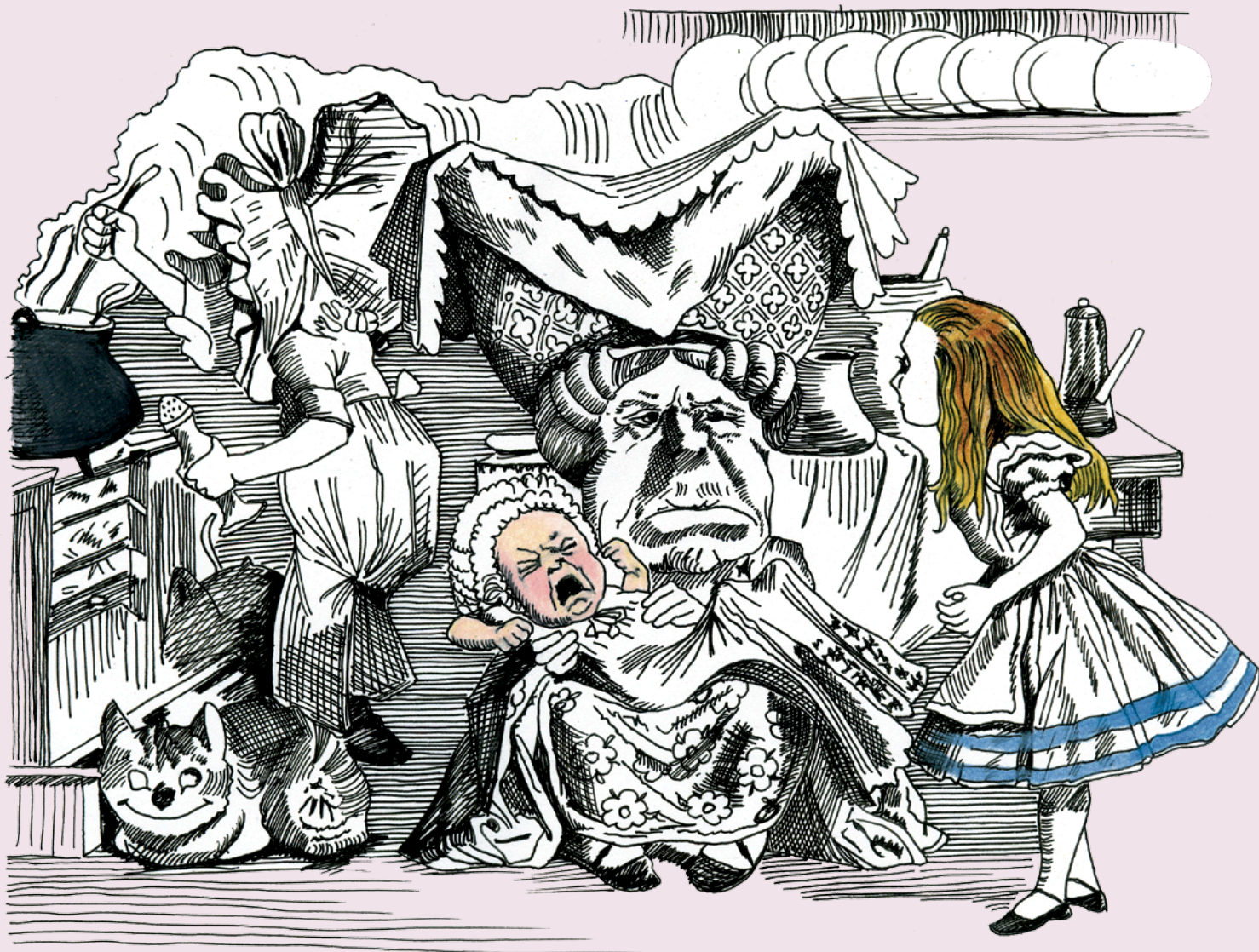
GRAZE: **touch or scrape lightly in passing; rub the skin from**

STOOL: **seat without a back or arms, usu. for one person** | CAULDRON: **large, deep, open pot in which things are boiled**

and a large cat, which was lying on the hearth* and grinning from ear to ear.

HEARTH: floor of a fireplace

“Please would you tell me,” said Alice, a little timidly, for she was not quite sure whether it was good manners for her to speak first, “why your cat grins like that?”



“It’s a Cheshire-Cat,”[¶] said the Duchess, “and that’s why. Pig!”

She said the last word with such sudden violence that Alice quite jumped; but she saw in another moment that it was addressed to the baby, and not to her, so she took courage, and went on again:—

[¶] ‘Grin like a Cheshire cat’ was a common phrase in Carroll’s day. Its origin is not known.

“I didn’t know that Cheshire-Cats always grinned; in fact, I didn’t know that cats *could* grin.”

“They all can,” said the Duchess; “and most of ‘em do.”

“I don’t know of any that do,” Alice said very politely, feeling quite pleased to have got into a conversation.

“You don’t know much,” said the Duchess; “and that’s a fact.”

Alice did not at all like the tone of this remark, and thought it would be as well to introduce some other subject of conversation. While she was trying to fix on one, the cook took the cauldron of soup off the fire, and at once set to work throwing everything within her reach at the Duchess and the baby — the fire-irons* came first; then followed a shower of saucepans, plates, and dishes. The Duchess took no notice of them even when they hit her; and the baby was howling so much already, that it was quite impossible to say whether the blows hurt it or not.

FIRE-IRONS: poker, tongs, shovel, etc .
(kept near a fireplace)

“Oh, *please* mind what you’re doing!” cried Alice, jumping up and down in an agony of terror. “Oh, there goes his *precious* nose!”, as an unusually large saucepan flew close by it, and very nearly carried it off.

“If everybody minded their own business,” the Duchess said, in a hoarse growl, “the world would go round a deal faster than it does.”

“Which would *not* be an advantage*,” said Alice, who felt very glad to get an opportunity of showing off a little of her knowledge. “Just think what work it would make with the day and night! You see the earth takes twenty-four hours to turn round on its axis —*”

ADVANTAGE: sth. to better the situation

AXIS: the imaginary line joining the North and South Poles through the centre of the earth

“Talking of axes*,” said the Duchess, “chop off* her head!”

AXE: tool for felling trees or splintering wood | TO CHOP OFF: cut off

Alice glanced rather anxiously at the cook, to see if she meant to take the hint; but the cook was busily

stirring the soup, and seemed not to be listening, so she went on again: “Twenty-four hours, I *think*; or is it twelve? I —”

“Oh, don’t bother *me!*” said the Duchess. “I never could abide figures*!” And with that she began nursing her child again, singing a sort of lullaby* to it as she did so, and giving it a violent shake at the end of every line:—²

TO ABIDE: **endure, bear** | FIGURE: **symbol for a number** | LULLABY: **song for lulling a baby to sleep**

*“Speak roughly to your little boy,
And beat him when he sneezes:
He only does it to annoy,
Because he knows it teases.”*

CHORUS

(in which the cook and the baby joined): —
“Wow! wow! wow!”

While the Duchess sang the second verse of the song, she kept tossing* the baby violently up and down, and the poor little thing howled so, that Alice could hardly hear the words: —

TO TOSS: **throw up into the air**

*“I speak severely to my boy,
I beat him when he sneezes;
For he can thoroughly enjoy
The pepper when he pleases!”*

CHORUS

“Wow! wow! wow!”

“Here! You may nurse it a bit, if you like!” the Duchess said to Alice, flinging the baby at her as she spoke. “I must go and get ready to play croquet with

² *The original of this burlesque is Speak Gently, a happily unremembered poem attributed by some authorities to one G.W. Langford and by other authorities to David Bates, a Philadelphia broker.*
*Speak gently to the little child!
Its love be sure to gain;*

*Teach it in accents soft and mild;
It may not long remain.
Speak gently to the young, for they
Will have enough to bear,
Pass through this life as best they may,
This full of anxious care!*



the Queen,” and she hurried out of the room. The cook threw a frying-pan* after her as she went, but it just missed her.

Alice caught the baby with some difficulty, as it was a queer-shaped little creature, and held out its arms and legs in all directions, “just like a star-fish*,” thought Alice. The poor little thing was snorting* like a steam-engine when she caught it, and kept doubling itself up and straightening itself out again, so that altogether, for the first minute or two, it was as much as she could do to hold it.

As soon as she had made out the proper way of nursing it (which was to twist it up into a sort of knot, and then keep tight hold of its right ear and left foot, so as to prevent its undoing itself), she carried it out into the open air. “If I don’t take this child away with me,” thought Alice, “they’re sure to kill it in a day or two. Wouldn’t it be murder to leave it behind?” She said the last words out loud, and the little thing grunted* in reply (it had left off sneezing by this time). “Don’t grunt,” said Alice; “that’s not at all a proper way of expressing yourself.”

The baby grunted again, and Alice looked very anxiously into its face to see what was the matter

FRYING-PAN: shallow pan with a long handle

STARFISH: *Dutch: zeester*
TO SNORT: force air violently out through the nose

TO GRUNT: make a low, rough sound (like a pig)

with it. There could be no doubt that it had a *very* turn-up nose, much more like a snout than a real nose: also its eyes were getting extremely small for a baby: altogether Alice did not like the look of the thing at all. “But perhaps it was only sobbing,” she thought, and looked into its eyes again, to see if there were any tears.

No, there were no tears. “If you’re going to turn into a pig, my dear,” said Alice, seriously, “I’ll have nothing more to do with you. Mind now!” The poor little thing sobbed again (or grunted, it was impossible to say which), and they went on for some while in silence.

Alice was just beginning to think to herself, “Now, what am I to do with this creature, when I get it home?” when it grunted again, so violently, that she looked down into its face in some alarm. This time there could be *no* mistake about it: it was neither more nor less than a pig, and she felt that it would be quite absurd for her to carry it any further.³

So she set the little creature down, and felt quite relieved* to see it trot away quietly into the wood. “If it had grown up,” she said to herself, “it would have made a dreadfully ugly child: but it makes rather a handsome pig, I think.” And she began thinking over other children she knew, who might do very well as pigs, and was just saying to herself “if one only knew the right way to change them —” when she was a little startled by seeing the Cheshire-Cat sitting on a bough of a tree a few yards off.

The Cat only grinned when it saw Alice. It looked good-natured, she thought: still it had *very* long claws and a great many teeth, so she felt that it ought to be treated with respect.

“Cheshire-Puss,” she began, rather timidly, as she did not at all know whether it would like the name: however, it only grinned a little wider. “Come,

TO FEEL RELIEVED: *have one’s anxiety or distress removed*

³ *It was surely not without malice that Carroll turned a male baby into a pig, for he had a low opinion of boys.*



it's pleased so far," thought Alice, and she went on.
"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where —" said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

"— so long as I get *somewhere*," Alice added as an

explanation.

“Oh, you’re sure to do that,” said the Cat, “if you only walk long enough.”⁴

Alice felt that this could not be denied, so she tried another question. “What sort of people live about here?”

“In *that* direction,” the Cat said, waving its right paw round, “lives a Hatter* : and in *that* direction,” waving the other paw, “lives a March Hare* . Visit either you like: they’re both mad.”

“But I don’t want to go among mad people,” Alice remarked.

“Oh, you ca’n’t help that,” said the Cat: “we’re all mad here. I’m mad. You’re mad.”

“How do you know I’m mad?” said Alice.

“You must be,” said the Cat, “or you wouldn’t have come here.”

Alice didn’t think that proved it at all: however, she went on: “And how do you know that you’re mad?”

“To begin with,” said the Cat, “a dog’s not mad. You grant* that?”

“I suppose so,” said Alice.”Well, then,” the Cat went on, “you see a dog growls when it’s angry, and wags its tail when it’s pleased. Now I growl when I’m pleased, and wag my tail when I’m angry. Therefore I’m mad.”

“I call it purring, not growling,” said Alice.

“Call it what you like,” said the Cat. “Do you play croquet with the Queen to-day?”

“I should like it very much,” said Alice, “but I haven’t been invited yet.”

“You’ll see me there,” said the Cat, and vanished.

Alice was not much surprised at this, she was getting so well used to queer things happening. While she was still looking at the place where it had

HATTER: **man who makes or sells hats**

MARCH HARE: *Dutch*: Maartse Haas

TO GRANT: **agree to**

⁴ *These remarks are among the most quoted passages in the Alice books. A wellknown echo is heard in Jack Kerouac’s novel, “On the Road: ‘. . . we gotta go and never stop going till we get there. “Where we going, man? ‘ I don’t know but we gotta go.’*

been, it suddenly appeared again.

“By-the-bye, what became of the baby?” said the Cat. “I’d nearly forgotten to ask.”

“It turned into a pig,” Alice answered very quietly, just as if the Cat had come back in a natural way.

“I thought it would,” said the Cat, and vanished again.

Alice waited a little, half expecting to see it again, but it did not appear, and after a minute or two she walked on in the direction in which the March Hare was said to live. “I’ve seen hatters before,” she said to herself: “the March Hare will be much the most interesting, and perhaps, as this is May, it wo’n’t be



raving mad—at least not so mad as it was in March.” As she said this, she looked up, and there was the Cat again, sitting on a branch of a tree.

“Did you say ‘pig’, or ‘fig*?’” said the Cat.

“I said ‘pig,’” replied Alice; “and I wish you wouldn’t keep appearing and vanishing so suddenly: you make one quite giddy*!”

“All right,” said the Cat; and this time it vanished quite slowly, beginning with the end of the tail, and ending with the grin, which remained some time after the rest of it had gone.

“Well! I’ve often seen a cat without a grin,” thought Alice; “but a grin without a cat! It’s the most curious thing I ever saw in all my life!”

She had not gone much farther before she came

FIG: soft, sweet fruit full of small seeds

GIDDY: having the feeling that everything is turning round

in sight of the house of the March Hare: she thought it must be the right house, because the chimneys were shaped like ears and the roof was thatched* with fur. It was so large a house, that she did not like to go nearer till she had nibbled some more of the left-hand bit of mushroom, and raised herself to about two feet high: even then she walked up towards it rather timidly, saying to herself "Suppose it should be raving mad after all! I almost wish I'd gone to see the Hatter instead!"

THATCHED: covered with dried straw

CHAPTER VII

A Mad Tea-Party



There was a table set out under a tree in front of the house, and the March Hare and the Hatter were having tea at it: a Dormouse¹ was sitting between them, fast asleep, and the other two were using it as a cushion, resting their elbows on it, and talking over its head. “Very uncomfortable for the Dormouse,” thought Alice; “only as it’s asleep, I suppose it doesn’t mind.”

The table was a large one, but the three were all crowded together at one corner of it. “No room! No room!” they cried out when they saw Alice coming. “There’s *plenty* of room!” said Alice indignantly, and she sat down in a large arm-chair at one end of the table.

“Have some wine,” the March Hare said in an

¹ *The British dormouse (Dutch: zevenslaper) is a tree-living rodent (knaagdier) that resembles a small squirrel (eekhoorn) much more than it does a mouse. The name is from the Latin dormire, to sleep, and has*

reference to the animal’s habit of winter hibernation, i.e. the dormouse is active during the night so that even in May (the month of Alice’s adventure) it sleeps throughout the day.

encouraging tone. Alice looked all round the table, but there was nothing on it but tea.

“I don’t see any wine,” she remarked.

“There isn’t any,” said the March Hare.

“Then it wasn’t very civil of you to offer it,” said Alice angrily.

“It wasn’t very civil of you to sit down without being invited,” said the March Hare.

“I didn’t know it was *your* table,” said Alice: “it’s laid for a great many more than three.”

“Your hair wants* cutting,” said the Hatter. He had been looking at Alice for some time with great curiosity, and this was his first speech.

“You should learn not to make personal remarks,” Alice said with some severity: “it’s very rude.”

The Hatter opened his eyes very wide on hearing this; but all he said was “Why is a raven* like a writing-desk?”

“Come, we shall have some fun now!” thought Alice. “I’m glad they’ve begun asking riddles — I believe I can guess that,” she added aloud.

“Do you mean that you think you can find out the answer to it?” said the March Hare.

“Exactly so,” said Alice.

“Then you should say what you mean,” the March Hare went on.

“I do,” Alice hastily replied; “at least — at least I mean what I say — that’s the same thing, you know.”

“Not the same thing a bit!” said the Hatter. “Why, you might just as well say that ‘I see what I eat’ is the same thing as ‘I eat what I see’!”

“You might just as well say,” added the March Hare, “that ‘I like what I get’ is the same thing as ‘I get what I like’!”

“You might just as well say,” added the Dormouse, which seemed to be talking in its sleep, “that ‘I breathe when I sleep’ is the same thing as ‘I sleep when I breathe’!”

TO WANT: *needs*

RAVEN: *Dutch: raaf*

“It *is* the same thing with you,” said the Hatter, and here the conversation dropped, and the party sat silent for a minute, while Alice thought over all she could remember about ravens and writing-desks, which wasn’t much.

The Hatter was the first to break the silence. “What day of the month is it?” he said, turning to Alice: he had taken his watch out of his pocket, and was looking at it uneasily, shaking it every now and then, and holding it to his ear.

Alice considered a little, and then said “The fourth.”²

“Two days wrong!” sighed the Hatter. “I told you butter wouldn’t suit* the works*!” he added, looking angrily at the March Hare.

“It was the *best* butter,” the March Hare meekly replied.

“Yes, but some crumbs must have got in as well,” the Hatter grumbled: “you shouldn’t have put it in with the bread-knife.”

The March Hare took the watch and looked at it gloomily: then he dipped it into his cup of tea, and looked at it again: but he could think of nothing better to say than his first remark, “It was the *best* butter, you know.”

Alice had been looking over his shoulder with some curiosity. “What a funny watch!” she remarked. “It tells the day of the month, and doesn’t tell what o’clock it is!”

“Why should it?” muttered the Hatter. “Does *your* watch tell you what year it is?”

“Of course not,” Alice replied very readily: “but that’s because it stays the same year for such a long time together.”

“Which is just the case with *mine*,” said the Hatter.

TO SUIT: **be good for** | WORKS: **moving parts of a watch**

² Alice’s remark that today is the fourth, coupled with the previous chapter’s statement that the month is May, establishes the date of Alice’s under ground adventure as May 4. May 4, 1852, was Alice Liddell’s

birthday. She was ten in 1862, when Carroll first told and recorded the story, but in the story she is almost certainly seven.

Alice felt dreadfully puzzled. The Hatter's remark seemed to her to have no sort of meaning in it, and yet it was certainly English. "I don't quite understand you," she said, as politely as she could.

"The Dormouse is asleep again," said the Hatter, and he poured a little hot tea upon its nose. The Dormouse shook its head impatiently, and said, without opening its eyes, "Of course, of course: just what I was going to remark myself."

"Have you guessed the riddle yet?" the Hatter said, turning to Alice again.

"No, I give it up," Alice replied. "What's the answer?"

"I haven't the slightest idea," said the Hatter.

"Nor I," said the March Hare.

Alice sighed wearily. "I think you might do something better with the time," she said, "than wasting it in asking riddles that have no answers."

"If you knew Time as well as I do," said the Hatter, "you wouldn't talk about wasting *it*. It's *him*."

"I don't know what you mean," said Alice.

"Of course you don't!" the Hatter said, tossing his head contemptuously. "I dare say you never even spoke to Time!"

"Perhaps not," Alice cautiously* replied; "but I know I have to beat time when I learn music."

"Ah! That accounts* for it," said the Hatter. "He wo'n't stand beating. Now, if you only kept on good terms with him*, he'd do almost anything you liked with the clock. For instance, suppose it were nine o'clock in the morning, just time to begin lessons: you'd only have to whisper a hint to Time, and round goes the clock in a twinkling! Half-past one, time for dinner!"

("I only wish it was," the March Hare said to itself in a whisper.)

"That would be grand, certainly," said Alice thoughtfully; "but then — I shouldn't be hungry for it,

CAUTIOUS: careful

TO ACCOUNT FOR: explain

TO KEEP ON GOOD TERMS WITH: remain
friendly

you know.”

“Not at first, perhaps,” said the Hatter: “but you could keep it to half-past one as long as you liked.”

“Is that the way *you* manage?” Alice asked.

The Hatter shook his head mournfully. “Not I!” he replied. “We quarreled last March — just before *he*



went mad, you know —” (pointing with his teaspoon at the March Hare,) “— it was at the great concert given by the Queen of Hearts, and I had to sing³

*‘Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!
How I wonder what you’re at!’*

You know the song, perhaps?”

“I’ve heard something like it,” said Alice.

“It goes on, you know,” the Hatter continued, “in this way: —

‘Up above the world you fly

³ *The Hatter’s song parodies the first verse of Jane Taylor’s well-known poem, The Star:
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,*

*How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.*

*Like, a tea-tray in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle —’ “*

Here the Dormouse shook itself, and began singing in its sleep “*Twinkle, twinkle, twinkle, twinkle —*” and went on so long that they had to pinch it to make it stop.

“Well, I’d hardly finished the first verse,” said the Hatter, “when the Queen bawled out ‘He’s murdering the time!⁴ Off with his head!’”

“How dreadfully savage*!” exclaimed Alice.

SAVAGE: **cruel**

“And ever since that,” the Hatter went on in a mournful tone, “he wo’n’t do a thing I ask! It’s always six o’clock now.”

A bright idea came into Alice’s head. “Is that the reason so many tea-things are put out here?” she asked.

“Yes, that’s it,” said the Hatter with a sigh: “it’s always tea-time, and we’ve no time to wash the things between whiles.”

“Then you keep moving round, I suppose?” said Alice.

“Exactly so,” said the Hatter: “as the things get used up.”

“But what happens when you come to the beginning again?” Alice ventured to ask.

“Suppose we change the subject,” the March Hare interrupted, yawning. “I’m getting tired of this. I vote the young lady tells us a story.”

“I’m afraid I don’t know one,” said Alice, rather alarmed at the proposal.

“Then the Dormouse shall!” they both cried. “Wake up, Dormouse!” And they pinched it on both sides at once.

The Dormouse slowly opened its eyes. “I wasn’t asleep,” it said in a hoarse, feeble voice, “I heard every word you fellows were saying.”

⁴ *‘Murdering the time’: spil the song’s meter by making bad mistakes:*

“Tell us a story!” said the March Hare.

“Yes, please do!” pleaded Alice.

“And be quick about it,” added the Hatter, “or you’ll be asleep again before it’s done.”

“Once upon a time there were three little sisters,” the Dormouse began in a great hurry; “and their names were Elsie, Lacie, and Tillie;⁵ and they lived at the bottom of a well —”

“What did they live on?” said Alice, who always took a great interest in questions of eating and drinking.

“They lived on treacle*,” said the Dormouse, after thinking a minute or two.

TREACLE: *Dutch: stroop*

“They couldn’t have done that, you know,” Alice gently remarked. “They’d have been ill.”

“So they were,” said the Dormouse; “very *ill*.”

Alice tried a little to fancy to herself what such an extraordinary way of living would be like, but it puzzled her too much: so she went on: “But why did they live at the bottom of a well?”

“Take some more tea,” the March Hare said to Alice, very earnestly.

“I’ve had nothing yet,” Alice replied in an offended tone: “so I ca’n’t take more.”

“You mean you ca’n’t take *less*,” said the Hatter: “it’s very easy to take *more* than nothing.”

“Nobody asked *your* opinion,” said Alice.

“Who’s making personal remarks now?” the Hatter asked triumphantly.

Alice did not quite know what to say to this: so she helped herself to some tea and bread-and-butter, and then turned to the Dormouse, and repeated her question. “Why did they live at the bottom of a well?”

The Dormouse again took a minute or two to think about it, and then said “It was a treacle-well.”

“There’s no such thing!” Alice was beginning very angrily, but the Hatter and the March Hare went “Sh!

⁵ *The three little sisters are again the three Liddell sisters. Elsie is L.C. (Larina Charlotte), Tillie refers to Edith’s family nickname Matilda, and Lacie is an anagram of Alice.*

Sh!” and the Dormouse sulkily remarked “If you ca’n’t be civil, you’d better finish the story for yourself.”

“No, please go on!” Alice said very humbly. “I wo’n’t interrupt you again. I dare say there may be *one*.”

“One, indeed!” said the Dormouse indignantly. However, he consented* to go on. “And so these three little sisters — they were learning to draw, you know —”

“What did they draw?” said Alice, quite forgetting her promise.

“Treacle,” said the Dormouse, without considering at all, this time.

“I want a clean cup,” interrupted the Hatter: “let’s all move one place on.”

He moved on as he spoke, and the Dormouse followed him: the March Hare moved into the Dormouse’s place, and Alice rather unwillingly took the place of the March Hare. The Hatter was the only one who got any advantage from the change; and Alice was a good deal worse off than before, as the March Hare had just upset the milk-jug into his plate.

Alice did not wish to offend the Dormouse again, so she began very cautiously: “But I don’t understand. Where did they draw the treacle from?”

“You can draw water out of a water-well,” said the Hatter; “so I should think you could draw treacle out of a treacle-well — eh, stupid?”

“But they were *in* the well,” Alice said to the Dormouse, not choosing to notice this last remark.

“Of course they were,” said the Dormouse: “well in.”

This answer so confused poor Alice, that she let the Dormouse go on for some time without interrupting it.

“They were learning to draw,” the Dormouse went on, yawning and rubbing its eyes, for it was getting

TO CONSENT: agree

very sleepy; “and they drew all manner of things — everything that begins with an M —”

“Why with an M?” said Alice.

“Why not?” said the March Hare.

Alice was silent. The Dormouse had closed its eyes by this time, and was going off into a doze; but, on being pinched* by the Hatter, it woke up again with a little shriek, and went on: “— that begins with an M, such as mouse-traps, and the moon, and memory, and muchness — you know you say things are ‘much of a muchness’⁶ — did you ever see such a thing as a drawing of a muchness!”

“Really, now you ask me,” said Alice, very much confused, “I don’t think —”

“Then you shouldn’t talk,” said the Hatter.

ON BEING: at the moment of

TO PINCH: take in a tight grip between the thumb and finger



This piece of rudeness was more than Alice could bear: she got up in great disgust, and walked off: the Dormouse fell asleep instantly, and neither of the others took the least notice of her going, though she looked back once or twice, half hoping that they would call after her: the last time she saw them, they were trying to put the Dormouse into the teapot. “At any rate I’ll never go *there* again!” said Alice, as she picked her way through the wood. “It’s the stupidest

⁶ *‘Much of a muchness’ is still a colloquial British phrase meaning that two or more things are very*

much alike or have the same value; or it may refer to any sort of all-pervading sameness in a situation.

tea-party I ever was at in all my life!”

Just as she said this, she noticed that one of the trees had a door leading right into it. “That’s very curious!” she thought. “But everything’s curious today. I think I may as well go in at once.” And in she went.

Once more she found herself in the long hall, and close to the little glass table. “Now, I’ll manage better this time,” she said to herself, and began by taking the little golden key, and unlocking the door that led into the garden. Then she set to work nibbling at the mushroom (she had kept a piece of it in her pocket) till she was about a foot high: then she walked down the little passage: and *then* — she found herself at last in the beautiful garden, among the bright flowerbeds and the cool fountains.

CHAPTER VIII

The Queen's Croquet-Ground



A large rose-tree stood near the entrance of the garden: the roses growing on it were white, but there were three gardeners at it, busily painting them red. Alice thought this a very curious thing, and she went nearer to watch them, and, just as she came up to them, she heard one of them say “Look out now, Five! Don’t go splashing* paint over me like that!”

“I couldn’t help it,” said Five, in a sulky tone. “Seven jogged* my elbow.”

TO SPLASH: cause liquid to fly about in

DROPS: make sb. wet

TO JOGG: give a slight knock or push

On which Seven looked up and said “That’s right, Five! Always lay the blame on others!”

“*You’d* better not talk!” said Five. “I heard the Queen say only yesterday you deserved to be beheaded*.”

“What for?” said the one who had spoken first.

“That’s none of *your* business, Two!” said Seven.

“Yes, it *is* his business!” said Five. “And I’ll tell him — it was for bringing the cook tulip-roots instead of onions.”

Seven flung down his brush, and had just begun “Well, of all the unjust things —” when his eye chanced* to fall upon Alice, as she stood watching them, and he checked himself suddenly: the others looked round also, and all of them bowed low.

“Would you tell me, please,” said Alice, a little timidly, “why you are painting those roses?”

Five and Seven said nothing, but looked at Two. Two began, in a low voice, “Why, the fact is, you see, Miss, this here ought to have been a *red* rose-tree, and we put a white one in by mistake; and, if the Queen was to find it out, we should all have our heads cut off, you know. So you see, Miss, we’re doing our best, afore she comes, to —”

At this moment, Five, who had been anxiously looking across the garden, called out “The Queen! The Queen!” and the three gardeners instantly threw themselves flat upon their faces. There was a sound of many footsteps, and Alice looked round, eager to see the Queen. First came ten soldiers carrying clubs*: these were all shaped like the three gardeners, oblong* and flat, with their hands and feet at the corners: next the ten courtiers*: these were ornamented all over with diamonds*, and walked two and two, as the soldiers did. After these came the royal children: there were ten of them, and the little dears came jumping merrily along, hand in hand, in couples: they were all ornamented with hearts*.

TO BEHEAD: **cut off the head**

TO CHANCE: **happen**

CLUB: **heavy stick with one thick end, used as a weapon** | OBLONG: **square and longer than it is wide** | COURTIER: **person in attendance at the court** | DIAMOND: **Dutch: diamant (in kaartspel ‘ruiten’)**

HEART: **Dutch: hart**

Next came the guests, mostly Kings and Queens, and among them Alice recognized the White Rabbit: it was talking in a hurried nervous manner, smiling at everything that was said, and went by without noticing her. Then followed the Knave* of Hearts, carrying the King's crown on a crimson velvet* cushion; and, last of all this grand procession, came THE KING AND THE QUEEN OF HEARTS. ■

Alice was rather doubtful whether she ought not to lie down on her face like the three gardeners, but she could not remember ever having heard of such a rule at processions; "and besides, what would be the use of a procession," thought she, "if people had all to lie down on their faces, so that they couldn't see it?" So she stood where she was, and waited.

When the procession came opposite to Alice, they all stopped and looked at her, and the Queen said, severely, "Who is this?" She said it to the Knave of Hearts, who only bowed and smiled in reply.

"Idiot!" said the Queen, tossing her head impatiently; and, turning to Alice, she went on: "What's your name, child?"

"My name is Alice, so please your Majesty," said Alice very politely; but she added, to herself, "Why, they're only a pack of cards*, after all. I needn't be afraid of them!"

"And who are *these*?" said the Queen, pointing to the three gardeners who were lying round the rose-tree; for, you see, as they were lying on their faces, and the pattern on their backs was the same as the rest of the pack, she could not tell whether they were gardeners, or soldiers, or courtiers, or three of her own children.

KNAVE: *Dutch: boer (in kaartspel)*
 CRIMSON: *deep red* | VELVET: *Dutch: fluweel*

PACK OF CARDS: *complete set (usually 52) of playing cards*

■ *Note 1: Among the spot cards the spades (Dutch : schoppen) are the gardeners, the clubs (klaveren) are soldiers, diamonds (ruiten) are courtiers, and the hearts are the ten royal children. The court cards are of course members of the court. Note how cleverly throughout this chapter Carroll has linked the*

behavior of his animated cards with the behavior of actual playing cards. They lie flat on their faces, then cannot be identified from their backs, they are easily turned over, and they bend themselves into croquet arches (Dutch: boog).



“How should *I* know?” said Alice, surprised at her own courage. “It’s no business of *mine*.”

The Queen turned crimson with fury, and, after glaring at her for a moment like a wild beast, began screaming “Off with her head! Off with —”

“Nonsense!” said Alice, very loudly and decidedly, and the Queen was silent.

The King laid his hand upon her arm, and timidly said “Consider, my dear: she is only a child!”

The Queen turned angrily away from him, and said to the Knave “Turn them over!”

The Knave did so, very carefully, with one foot.

“Get up!” said the Queen in a shrill, loud voice, and the three gardeners instantly jumped up, and

began bowing to the King, the Queen, the royal children, and everybody else.

“Leave off that!” screamed the Queen. “You make me giddy.” And then, turning to the rose-tree, she went on “What *have* you been doing here?”

“May it please your Majesty,” said Two, in a very humble tone, going down on one knee as he spoke, “we were trying —”

“I *see*!” said the Queen, who had meanwhile been examining the roses. “Off with their heads!” and the procession moved on, three of the soldiers remaining behind to execute the unfortunate gardeners, who ran to Alice for protection.

“You sha’n’t be beheaded!” said Alice, and she put them into a large flower-pot that stood near. The three soldiers wandered about for a minute or two, looking for them, and then quietly marched off after the others.

“Are their heads off?” shouted the Queen. “Their heads are gone, if it please your Majesty!” the soldiers shouted in reply.

“That’s right!” shouted the Queen. “Can you play croquet?”

The soldiers were silent, and looked at Alice, as the question was evidently meant for her.

“Yes!” shouted Alice.

“Come on, then!” roared* the Queen, and Alice joined the procession, wondering very much what would happen next.

“It’s — it’s a very fine day!” said a timid voice at her side. She was walking by the White Rabbit, who was peeping anxiously into her face.

“Very,” said Alice. “Where’s the Duchess?”

“Hush! Hush!” said the Rabbit in a low hurried tone. He looked anxiously over his shoulder as he spoke, and then raised himself up on tiptoe, put his mouth close to her ear, and whispered “She’s under sentence of execution*.”

TO ROAR: make loud, deep sound (like a lion)

TO BE UNDER SENTENCE OF EXECUTION: to be condemned to be put to death

“What for?” said Alice.

“Did you say ‘What a pity!’?” the Rabbit asked.

“No, I didn’t,” said Alice. “I don’t think it’s at all a pity. I said ‘What for?’”

“She boxed the Queen’s ears —” the Rabbit began. Alice gave a little scream of laughter. “Oh, hush!” the Rabbit whispered in a frightened tone. “The Queen will hear you! You see she came rather late, and the Queen said —”

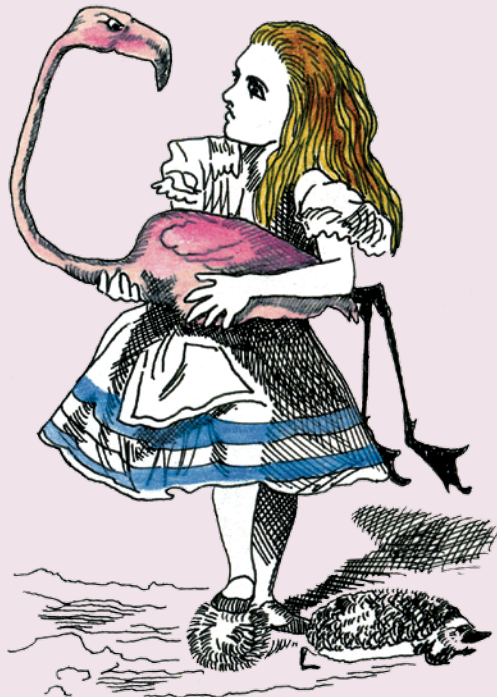
“Get to your places!” shouted the Queen in a voice of thunder, and people began running about in all directions, tumbling up against each other: however, they got settled down in a minute or two, and the game began.

Alice thought she had never seen such a curious croquet-ground in her life: it was all ridges and furrows*: the croquet balls were live hedgehogs*, and the mallets* live flamingoes, and the soldiers had to double themselves up and stand on their hands and feet, to make the arches.

The chief difficulty Alice found at first was in managing her flamingo: she succeeded in getting its body tucked away*, comfortably enough, under her

RIDGES AND FUR ROWS: **in ploughed land ridges are raised parts between two furrows which are long cuts in the ground made by a plough** | HEDGEHOG: *Dutch:* **egel** | Mallet: **long-handled wooden-headed hammer for striking a croquet ball**

TO TUCK AWAY: **put or push into a desired position**



arm, with its legs hanging down, but generally, just as she had got its neck nicely straightened out, and was going to give the hedgehog a blow with its head, it *would* twist itself round and look up in her face, with such a puzzled expression that she could not help bursting out laughing; and, when she had got its head down, and was going to begin again, it was very provoking to find that the hedgehog had unrolled itself, and was in the act of crawling away: besides all this, there was generally a ridge or a furrow in the way wherever she wanted to send the hedgehog to, and, as the doubled-up soldiers were always getting up and walking off to other parts of the ground, Alice soon came to the conclusion that it was a very difficult game indeed.

The players all played at once, without waiting for turns, quarreling all the while, and fighting for the hedgehogs; and in a very short time the Queen was in a furious passion, and went stamping about, and shouting "Off with his head!" or "Off with her head!" about once in a minute.

Alice began to feel very uneasy: to be sure, she had not as yet had any dispute with the Queen, but she knew that it might happen any minute, "and then," thought she, "what would become of me? They're dreadfully fond of beheading people here: the great wonder is, that there's any one left alive!" She was looking about for some way of escape, and wondering whether she could get away without being seen, when she noticed a curious appearance in the air: it puzzled her very much at first, but after watching it a minute or two she made it out to be a grin, and she said to herself "It's the Cheshire-Cat: now I shall have somebody to talk to."

"How are you getting on?" said the Cat, as soon as there was mouth enough for it to speak with.

Alice waited till the eyes appeared, and then nodded. "It's no use speaking to it," she thought,

“till its ears have come, or at least one of them.” In another minute the whole head appeared, and then Alice put down her flamingo, and began an account* of the game, feeling very glad she had some one to listen to her. The Cat seemed to think that there was enough of it now in sight, and no more of it appeared.” I don’t think they play at all fairly*,” Alice began, in rather a complaining tone, “and they all quarrel so dreadfully one ca’n’t hear oneself speak — and they don’t seem to have any rules in particular: at least, if there are, nobody attends to them — and you’ve no idea how confusing it is all the things being alive: for instance, there’s the arch I’ve got to go through next walking about at the other end of the ground — and I should have croqueted the Queen’s hedgehog just now, only it ran away when it saw mine coming!”

ACCOUNT: report or description

FAIRLY: justly, honestly

“How do you like the Queen?” said the Cat in a low voice. “Not at all,” said Alice: “she’s so extremely —” Just then she noticed that the Queen was close behind her, listening: so she went on “— likely to win, that it’s hardly worth while finishing the game.”

The Queen smiled and passed on.

“Who *are* you talking to?” said the King, coming up to Alice, and looking at the Cat’s head with great curiosity.

“It’s a friend of mine — a Cheshire-Cat,” said Alice: “allow me to introduce it.”

“I don’t like the look of it at all,” said the King: “however, it may kiss my hand, if it likes.”

“I’d rather not,” the Cat remarked.

“Don’t be impertinent,” said the King, “and don’t look at me like that!” He got behind Alice as he spoke.

“A cat may look at a king,” said Alice. “I’ve read that in some book, but I don’t remember where.”²

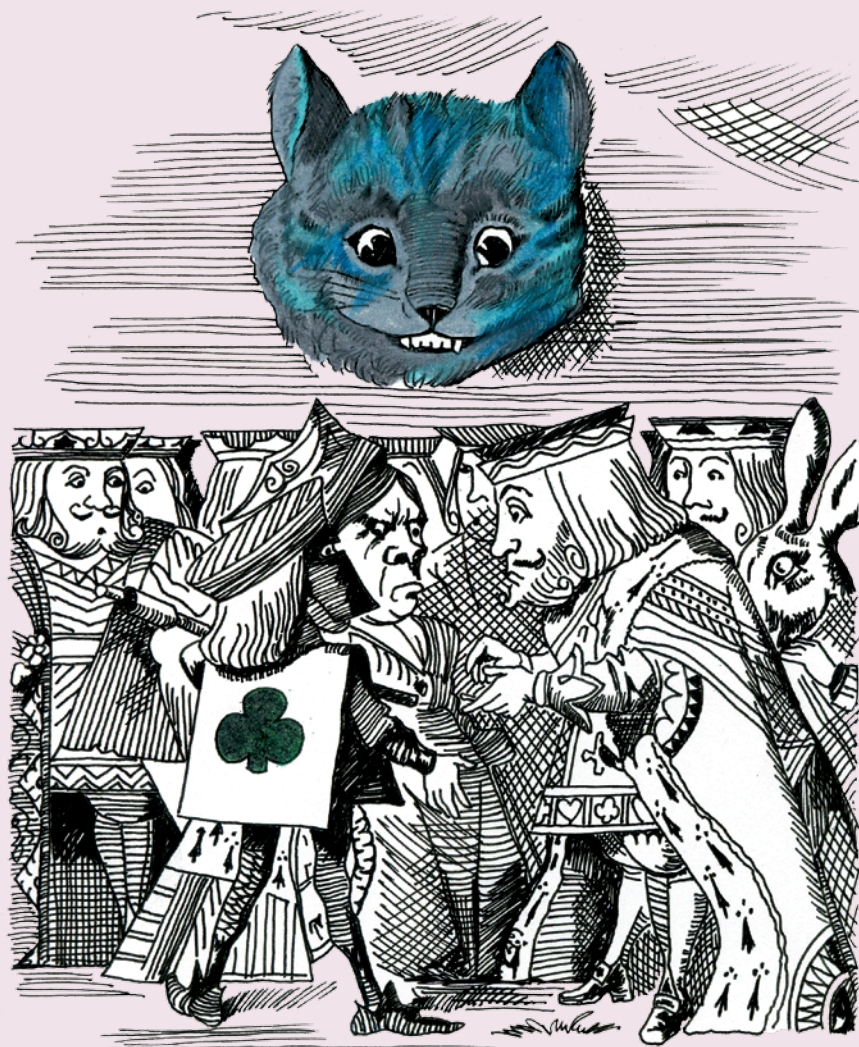
“Well, it must be removed,” said the King very

² *‘A cat may look at a king’ -is a familiar English proverb meaning that there are things an inferior may do in the presence of a superior.*

decidedly; and he called to the Queen, who was passing at the moment, "My dear! I wish you would have this cat removed!"

The Queen had only one way of settling all difficulties, great or small. "Off with his head!" she said without even looking round.

"I'll fetch the executioner myself," said the King



eagerly, and he hurried off.

Alice thought she might as well go back and see how the game was going on, as she heard the Queen's voice in the distance, screaming with passion. She had already heard her sentence three of the players to be executed for having missed their turns, and she

did not like the look of things at all, as the game was in such confusion that she never knew whether it was her turn or not. So she went off in search of her hedgehog.

The hedgehog was engaged in a fight with another hedgehog, which seemed to Alice an excellent opportunity for croqueting one of them with the other: the only difficulty was, that her flamingo was gone across to the other side of the garden, where Alice could see it trying in a helpless sort of way to fly up into a tree.

By the time she had caught the flamingo and brought it back, the fight was over, and both the hedgehogs were out of sight: “but it doesn’t matter much,” thought Alice, “as all the arches are gone from this side of the ground.” So she tucked it away under her arm, that it might not escape again, and went back to have a little more conversation with her friend. When she got back to the Cheshire-Cat, she was surprised to find quite a large crowd collected round it: there was a dispute going on between the executioner, the King, and the Queen, who were all talking at once, while all the rest were quite silent, and looked very uncomfortable.

The moment Alice appeared, she was appealed to by all three to settle the question, and they repeated their arguments to her, though, as they all spoke at once, she found it very hard to make out exactly what they said.

The executioner’s argument was, that you couldn’t cut off a head unless there was a body to cut it off from: that he had never had to do such a thing before, and he wasn’t going to begin at *his* time of life.

The King’s argument was that anything that had a head could be beheaded, and that you weren’t to talk nonsense.

The Queen’s argument was that, if something

wasn't done about it in less than no time, she'd have everybody executed, all round. (It was this last remark that had made the whole party look so grave and anxious.)

Alice could think of nothing else to say but "It belongs to the Duchess: you'd better ask *her* about it."

"She's in prison," the Queen said to the executioner: "fetch her here." And the executioner went off like an arrow*. The Cat's head began fading away the moment he was gone, and, by the time he had come back with the Duchess, it had entirely disappeared: so the King and the executioner ran wildly up and down, looking for it, while the rest of the party went back to the game.

LIKE AN ARROW: **unusually quickly**

CHAPTER IX

The Mock Turtle's* Story

MOCK TURTLE: imitation turtle: here a nonsensical use of the word



“You ca’n’t think how glad I am to see you again, you dear old thing!” said the Duchess, as she tucked her arm affectionately* into Alice’s, and they walked off together.

AFFECTIONATE: with love and fondness

Alice was very glad to find her in such a pleasant temper, and thought to herself that perhaps it was only the pepper that had made her so savage when they met in the kitchen.

“When *I’m* a Duchess,” she said to herself (not in a very hopeful tone, though), “I wo’n’t have any pepper in my kitchen *at all*. Soup does very well without — Maybe it’s always pepper that makes people hot-tempered,” she went on, very much pleased at having found out a new kind of rule, “and vinegar that makes them sour — and camomile¹ that makes them bitter — and — and barley-sugar² and such things that make children sweet-tempered. I only wish people knew *that*: then they wouldn’t be so stingy about it, you know —”

She had quite forgotten the Duchess by this time, and was a little startled when she heard her voice close to her ear. “You’re thinking about something, my dear, and that makes you forget to talk. I ca’n’t tell you just now what the moral of that is, but I shall remember it in a bit.”

“Perhaps it hasn’t one,” Alice ventured to remark.

“Tut, tut, child!” said the Duchess. “Every thing’s got a moral, if only you can find it.” And she squeezed herself up closer to Alice’s side as she spoke.

Alice did not much like her keeping so close to her: first, because the Duchess was *very* ugly; and secondly, because she was exactly the right height to rest her chin on Alice’s shoulder, and it was an uncomfortably sharp chin. However, she did not like to be rude: so she bore it as well as she could.

“The game’s going on rather better now,” she said, by way of keeping up the conversation a little.”

“‘Tis so,” said the Duchess: “and the moral of that is — Oh, ‘tis love, ‘tis love, that makes the world go round!”

“Somebody said,”³ Alice whispered, “that it’s done by everybody minding their own business!”

“Ah, well! It means much the same thing,” said the Duchess, digging her sharp little chin into Alice’s

¹ *Camomile was an extremely bitter medicine, widely used in Victorian England. It was extracted from the plant of the same name.*

² *Barley-sugar is a transparent, brittle candy, usually in twisted stick form, still sold in England.*

³ *The ‘somebody’ was the Duchess herself, in Chapter 6.*

shoulder as she added “and the moral of *that* is — ‘Take care of the sense, and the sounds will take care of themselves.’ “⁴

“How fond she is of finding morals in things!” Alice thought to herself.

“I dare say you’re wondering why I don’t put my arm round your waist,” the Duchess said, after a pause: “the reason is, that I’m doubtful about the temper of your flamingo. Shall I try the experiment?”

“He might bite,” Alice cautiously replied, not feeling at all anxious to have the experiment tried.

“Very true,” said the Duchess: “flamingoes and mustard both bite. And the moral of that is — ‘Birds of a feather flock together*.’ “

“Only mustard isn’t a bird,” Alice remarked.

“Right, as usual,” said the Duchess: “what a clear way you have of putting things!”

“It’s a mineral, I *think*,” said Alice.

“Of course it is,” said the Duchess, who seemed ready to agree to everything that Alice said: “there’s a large mustard-mine near here. And the moral of that is — ‘The more there is of mine, the less there is of yours.’ “

“Oh, I know!” exclaimed Alice, who had not attended to this last remark. “It’s a vegetable. It doesn’t look like one, but it is.”

“I quite agree with you,” said the Duchess; “and the moral of that is — ‘Be what you would seem to be’ — or, if you’d like it put more simply — ‘Never imagine yourself not to be otherwise than what it might appear to others that what you were or might have been was not otherwise than what you had been would have appeared to them to be otherwise.’ “

“I think I should understand that better,” Alice said very politely, “if I had it written down: but I ca’n’t quite follow it as you say it.”

BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER*:

Dutch: ‘soort zoekt soort’

⁴ Surely few non-British readers have recognized this for what it is, an extremely ingenious switch on the British proverb, ‘Take care of the pence and the

pounds will take care of themselves.’ The Duchess’s remark is sometimes quoted as a good rule to follow in writing prose or even poetry. Unsound, of course .

“That’s nothing to what I could say if I chose,” the Duchess replied, in a pleased tone.

“Pray don’t trouble yourself to say it any longer than that,” said Alice.

“Oh, don’t talk about trouble!” said the Duchess. “I make you a present of everything I’ve said as yet.”

“A cheap sort of present!” thought Alice. “I’m glad people don’t give birthday-presents like that!” But she did not venture to say it outloud.

“Thinking again?” the Duchess asked, with another dig of her sharp little chin.

“I’ve a right to think,” said Alice sharply, for she was beginning to feel a little worried.

“Just about as much right,” said the Duchess, “as pigs have to fly; and the m —”

But here, to Alice’s great surprise, the Duchess’s voice died away, even in the middle of her favourite word “moral”, and the arm that was linked into hers began to tremble. Alice looked up, and there stood the Queen in front of them, with her arms folded, frowning like a thunderstorm.

“A fine day, your Majesty!” the Duchess began in a low, weak voice.

“Now, I give you fair warning,” shouted the Queen, stamping on the ground as she spoke; “either you or your head must be off, and that in about half no time! Take your choice!”

The Duchess took her choice, and was gone in a moment.

“Let’s go on with the game,” the Queen said to Alice; and Alice was too much frightened to say a word, but slowly followed her back to the croquet-ground.

The other guests had taken advantage of the Queen’s absence, and were resting in the shade: however, the moment they saw her, they hurried back to the game, the Queen merely remarking that a moment’s delay* would cost them their lives.

DELAY: instance of being late

All the time they were playing the Queen never left off quarreling with the other players, and shouting “Off with his head!” or “Off with her head!” Those whom she sentenced* were taken into custody* by the soldiers, who of course had to leave off being arches to do this, so that, by the end of half an hour or so, there were no arches left, and all the players, except the King, the Queen, and Alice, were in custody and under sentence of execution.

TO SENTENCE: **state that sb. is to have a certain punishment** | TO TAKE INTO CUSTODY: **arrest**

Then the Queen left off, quite out of breath, and said to Alice “Have you seen the Mock Turtle yet?”

“No,” said Alice. “I don’t even know what a Mock Turtle is.”

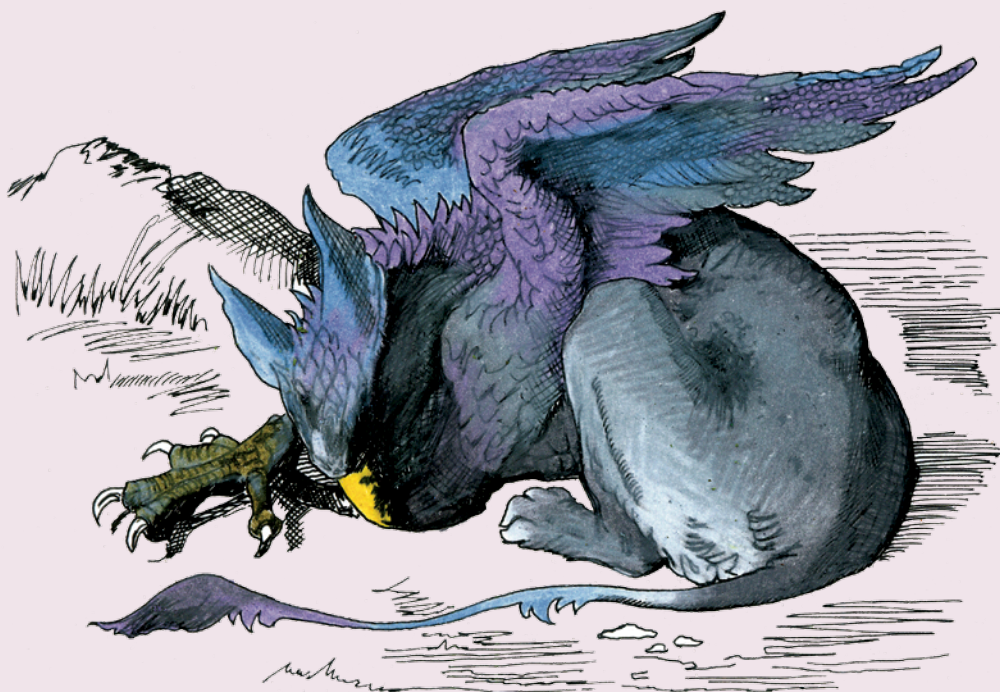
“It’s the thing Mock Turtle Soup⁵ is made from,” said the Queen.

“I never saw one, or heard of one,” said Alice.

“Come on, then,” said the Queen, “and he shall tell you his history.”

As they walked off together, Alice heard the King say in a low voice, to the company generally, “You are all pardoned*.” “Come,

TO PARDON: **forgive**



⁵ *Mock turtle soup is an imitation of green turtle soup, usually made from the meat of a calf. This*

explains why the Mock Turtle in this book is drawn with the head, hind hoofs, and tail of a calf.

that's a good thing!" she said to herself, for she had felt quite unhappy at the number of executions the Queen had ordered.

They very soon came upon a Gryphon⁶, lying fast asleep in the sun. (If you don't know what a Gryphon is, look at the picture.)

"Up, lazy thing!" said the Queen, "and take this young lady to see the Mock Turtle, and to hear his history. I must go back and see after some executions I have ordered;" and she walked off, leaving Alice alone with the Gryphon. Alice did not quite like the look of the creature, but on the whole she thought it would be quite as safe to stay with it as to go after that savage Queen: so she waited.

The Gryphon sat up and rubbed its eyes: then it watched the Queen till she was out of sight: then it chuckled*. "What fun!" said the Gryphon, half to itself, half to Alice.

"What *is* the fun?" said Alice.

"Why, *she*," said the Gryphon. "It's all her fancy, that: they never executes nobody, you know. Come on!"

"Everybody says 'come on!' here," thought Alice, as she went slowly after it: "I never was so ordered about before, in all my life, never!"

They had not gone far before they saw the Mock Turtle in the distance, sitting sad and lonely on a little ledge of rock, and, as they came nearer, Alice could hear him sighing as if his heart would break. She pitied him deeply. "What is his sorrow?" she asked the Gryphon. And the Gryphon answered, very nearly in the same words as before, "It's all his fancy, that: he hasn't got no sorrow, you know. Come on!"

So they went up to the Mock Turtle, who looked at them with large eyes full of tears, but said nothing.

"This here young lady," said the Gryphon, "she

TO CHUCKLE: low, quiet laughter with closed mouth, indicating satisfaction or amusement

⁶ *The gryphon, or griffin, is a fabulous monster with the head and wings of an eagle and the lower body of a lion.*

wants for to know your history, she do.”

“I’ll tell it her,” said the Mock Turtle in a deep, hollow tone. “Sit down, both of you, and don’t speak a word till I’ve finished.”

So they sat down, and nobody spoke for some minutes. Alice thought to herself “I don’t see how he can ever finish, if he doesn’t begin.” But she waited patiently.

“Once,” said the Mock Turtle at last, with a deep sigh, “I was a real Turtle.”

These words were followed by a very long silence, broken only by an occasional exclamation of “Hjckrrh!” from the Gryphon, and the constant heavy sobbing* of the Mock Turtle. Alice was very nearly getting up and saying “Thank you, Sir, for your interesting story,” but she could not help thinking there must be more to come, so she sat still and said nothing.

“When we were little,” the Mock Turtle went on at last, more calmly, though still sobbing a little now and then, “we went to school in the sea. The master was an old Turtle — we used to call him Tortoise* —”

“Why did you call him Tortoise, if he wasn’t one?” Alice asked.

“We called him Tortoise because he taught us,” said the Mock Turtle angrily. “Really you are very dull!”

“You ought to be ashamed of yourself for asking such a simple question,” added the Gryphon; and then they both sat silent and looked at poor Alice, who felt ready to sink into the earth. At last the Gryphon said to the Mock Turtle “Drive on, old fellow! Don’t be all day about it!” and he went on in these words: —

“Yes, we went to school in the sea, though you mayn’t believe it —”

“I never said I didn’t!” interrupted Alice.

“You did,” said the Mock Turtle.

SOBBING: noise made when one draws in the breath sharply and irregularly from sorrow or pain, esp. while crying

TORTOISE: variety of turtle

“Hold your tongue!” added the Gryphon, before Alice could speak again. The Mock Turtle went on.

“We had the best of educations — in fact, we went to school every day —”

“I’ve been to a day-school, too,” said Alice. “You needn’t be so proud as all that.”

“With extras?” asked the Mock Turtle, a little anxiously.

“Yes,” said Alice: “we learned French and music.”

“And washing?” said the Mock Turtle.

“Certainly not!” said Alice indignantly.

“Ah! Then yours wasn’t a really good school,” said the Mock Turtle in a tone of great relief. “Now, at *ours*, they had, at the end of the bill, ‘French, music, and washing — extra.’”⁷



⁷ The phrase ‘French, music and washing - extra’ often appeared on boarding-school bills. It meant that there was an extra charge for French and music, and for having one’s laundry done by the school.

“You couldn’t have wanted it much,” said Alice; “living at the bottom of the sea.”

“I couldn’t afford to learn it,” said the Mock Turtle, with a sigh. “I only took the regular course.”

“What was that?” inquired Alice.

“Reeling* and Writhing*,⁸ of course, to begin with,” the Mock Turtle replied; “and then the different branches of Arithmetic* — Ambition*, Distraction*, Uglification*, and Derision*.”

“I never heard of ‘Uglification,’” Alice ventured to say. “What is it?”

The Gryphon lifted up both its paws in surprise.

“Never heard of uglifying!” it exclaimed. “You know what to beautify is, I suppose?”

“Yes,” said Alice doubtfully: “it means — to — make — anything — prettier.”

“Well, then,” the Gryphon went on, “if you don’t know what to uglify is, you *are* a simpleton.”

Alice did not feel encouraged to ask any more questions about it: so she turned to the Mock Turtle, and said “What else had you to learn?”

“Well, there was Mystery,” the Mock Turtle replied, counting off the subjects on his flappers*, — “Mystery, ancient and modern, with Seaography*: then Drawling* — the Drawling-master was an old conger-eel*, that used to come once a week: *he* taught us Drawling, Stretching*, and Fainting* in Coils*.”⁹

“What was *that* like?” said Alice.

“Well, I ca’n’t show it you, myself,” the Mock Turtle said: “I’m too stiff. And the Gryphon never learnt it.”

“Hadn’t time,” said the Gryphon: “I went to the Classical master, though. He was an old crab, *he* was.”

“I never went to him,” the Mock Turtle said with a sigh. “He taught Laughing and Grief*, they used to say.”

TO REEL: walk or stand unsteadily, moving from side to side | TO WRITHE: twist or roll about in pain | ARITHMETIC: science of numbers | AMBITION: strong desire | DISTRACTION: sth. that draws one’s attention away from sth. | UGLIFICATION: act of making sth. very unattractive | DERISION: act of mocking or laughing scornfully at

SIMPLETON: foolish, weak-minded person

FLAPPER: sth. broad and flat (his front feet) SEAOGRAPHY: if possible, the descriptive science of the sea, its plant and animal life, etc. | TO DRAWL: speak so that the sound of the vowels (a.e.i.o.u) is longer than usual | CONGER-EEL: ocean eel of large size | TO STRETCH: extend the limbs, etc. and thus tighten the muscles | TO FAINT: lose consciousness | COIL: sth. wound or twisted into a continuous circular or spiral shape

LAUGHING AND GRIEF: laughing and sorrow = Latin and Greek

⁸ Needless to say, all the Mock Turtle’s subjects are puns (reading, writing, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, history, geography, drawing,

sketching, painting in oils, Latin, Greek).
⁹ referring to drawing, sketching, painting in oil.

See note 8.

“So he did, so he did,” said the Gryphon, sighing in his turn; and both creatures hid their faces in their paws.

“And how many hours a day did you do lessons?” said Alice, in a hurry to change the subject.

“Ten hours the first day,” said the Mock Turtle: “nine the next, and so on.”

“What a curious plan!” exclaimed Alice.

“That’s the reason they’re called lessons,” the Gryphon remarked: “because they lessen from day to day.”

This was quite a new idea to Alice, and she thought it over a little before she made her next remark.

“Then the eleventh day must have been a holiday?”

“Of course it was,” said the Mock Turtle.

“And how did you manage on the twelfth?” Alice went on eagerly.

“That’s enough about lessons,” the Gryphon interrupted in a very decided tone. “Tell her something about the games now.”

CHAPTER X

The Lobster* -Quadrille

LOBSTER: *Dutch: zeekeeft*



The Mock Turtle sighed deeply, and drew the back of one flapper across his eyes. He looked at Alice and tried to speak, but, for a minute or two, sobs choked his voice. “Same as if he had a bone in his throat,” said the Gryphon; and it set to work shaking him and punching him in the back. At last the Mock Turtle recovered his voice, and, with tears running down his cheeks, he went on again: —

“You may not have lived much under the sea —”

“I haven’t,” said Alice) — “and perhaps you were never even introduced to a lobster —” (Alice began to say “I once tasted—” but checked herself hastily, and said “No, never”) “— so you can have no idea what a delightful thing a Lobster-Quadrille is!”[¶]

“No, indeed,” said Alice. “What sort of a dance is it?”

“Why,” said the Gryphon, “you first form into a line along the sea-shore —”

“Two lines!” cried the Mock Turtle. “Seals*, turtles, salmon*, and so on: then, when you’ve cleared all the jelly-fish* out of the way —”

“*That* generally takes some time,” interrupted the Gryphon.

“— you advance twice —”

“Each with a lobster as a partner!” cried the Gryphon.

“Of course,” the Mock Turtle said: “advance twice, set to partners —”

“— change lobsters, and retire in same order,” continued the Gryphon.

“Then, you know,” the Mock Turtle went on, “you throw the —”

“The lobsters!” shouted the Gryphon, with a bound* into the air.

“— as far out to sea as you can —”

“Swim after them!” screamed the Gryphon.

“Turn a somersault in the sea!” cried the Mock Turtle, capering* wildly about.

“Change lobsters again!” yelled the Gryphon at the top of its voice.

“Back to land again, and — that’s all the first figure,” said the Mock Turtle, suddenly dropping his voice; and the two creatures, who had been jumping about like mad things all this time, sat down again very sadly and quietly, and looked at Alice.

SEAL: *Dutch: zeehond*

SALMON: *Dutch: zalm*

JELLY-FISH: *Dutch: kwal*

BOUND: *jumping movement upward or forward*

TO CAPER: *jump about playfully*

[¶] *The quadrille, a kind of square dance in five figures, was one of the most difficult of the ballroom dances fashionable at the*

time Carroll wrote his tale. The Liddell children had been taught the dance by a private tutor.

“It must be a very pretty dance,” said Alice timidly.

“Would you like to see a little of it?” said the Mock Turtle.

“Very much indeed,” said Alice.

“Come, let’s try the first figure!” said the Mock Turtle to the Gryphon.

“We can do it without lobsters, you know. Which shall sing?”

“Oh, *you* sing,” said the Gryphon. “I’ve forgotten the words.”

So they began solemnly dancing round and round Alice, every now and then treading on her toes when they passed too close, and waving their fore-paws to mark the time, while the Mock Turtle sang this, very slowly and sadly: —²

“Will you walk a little faster?” said a whiting to a snail*,*

“There’s a porpoise close behind us, and he’s treading on my tail.*

See how eagerly the lobsters and the turtles all advance!

They are waiting on the shingle³ — will you come and join the dance?

Will you, wo’n’t you, will you, wo’n’t you, will you join the dance?

Will you, wo’n’t you, will you, wo’n’t you, wo’n’t you join the dance?

“You can really have no notion how delightful it will be*

WHITING: *Dutch: wijting*

SNAIL: *Dutch: slak*

PORPOISE: *Dutch: bruinvis.*

NOTION: *idea*

² *The Mock Turtle song parodies Mary Howitt’s poem *The Spider and the Fly*. The first stanza of Mrs.*

Howitt’s version reads:

*‘Will you walk into my parlour?’ said,
the spider to the fly.*

*‘Tis the prettiest little parlour that
ever you did spy.*

The way into my parlour is up a winding stair,

*And I’ve got many curious things to show when you
are there.’*

*‘Oh, no, no,’ said the little fly, ‘to ask me is in vain,
For who goes up your winding stair
can ne’er comedown again.’*

³ *‘Shingle’ is a word for that portion of the seaside
where the beach is covered with large rounded stones
and pebbles.*

*When they take us up and throw us, with the lobsters,
out to sea!”*

*But the snail replied “Too far, too far!” and gave a
look askance* —*

*Said he thanked the whiting kindly, but he would not
join the dance.*

*Would not, could not, would not, could not, would
not join the dance.*

*Would not, could not, would not, could not, could
not join the dance.*

*“What matters it how far we go?” his scaly friend
replied.*

*“There is another shore, you know, upon the other
side.*

*The further off from England the nearer is to France—
Then turn not pale, beloved snail, but come and join
the dance.*

*Will you, wo’n’t you, will you, wo’n’t you, will you
join the dance?*

*Will you, wo’n’t you, will you, wo’n’t you, wo’n’t
you join the dance?”*

“Thank you, it’s a very interesting dance to
watch,” said Alice, feeling very glad that it was over
at last: “and I do so like that curious song about the
whiting!”

“Oh, as to* the whiting,” said the Mock Turtle,
“they — you’ve seen them, of course?”

“Yes,” said Alice, “I’ve often seen them at dinn —”
she checked herself hastily.

“I don’t know where Dinn may be,” said the Mock
Turtle; “but, if you’ve seen them so often, of course
you know what they’re like?”

“I believe so,” Alice replied thoughtfully. “They
have their tails in their mouths — and they’re all over
crumbs.”

“You’re wrong about the crumbs,” said the Mock

TO LOOK ASKANCE AT: **look at with
suspicion**

AS TO: **about; concerning**

Turtle: “crumbs would all wash off in the sea. But they *have* their tails in their mouths; and the reason is —” here the Mock Turtle yawned and shut his eyes. “Tell her about the reason and all that,” he said to the Gryphon.

“The reason is,” said the Gryphon, “that they *would* go with the lobsters to the dance. So they got thrown out to sea. So they had to fall a long way. So they got their tails fast in their mouths. So they couldn’t get them out again. That’s all.”

“Thank you,” said Alice, “it’s very interesting. I never knew so much about a whiting before.”

“I can tell you more than that, if you like,” said the Gryphon. “Do you know why it’s called a whiting?”

“I never thought about it,” said Alice. “Why?”

“*It does the boots and shoes,*” the Gryphon replied very solemnly.

Alice was thoroughly puzzled. “Does the boots and shoes!” she repeated in a wondering tone.

“Why, what are *your* shoes done with?” said the Gryphon. “I mean, what makes them so shiny?”

Alice looked down at them, and considered a little before she gave her answer. “They’re done with blacking, I believe.”

“Boots and shoes under the sea,” the Gryphon went on in a deep voice, “are done with whiting. Now you know.”

“And what are they made of?” Alice asked in a tone of great curiosity.

“Soles* and eels*, of course,” the Gryphon replied, rather impatiently: “any shrimp* could have told you that.”

“If I’d been the whiting,” said Alice, whose thoughts were still running on the song, “I’d have said to the porpoise ‘Keep back, please! We don’t want *you* with us!’ “

“They were obliged to have him with them,” the Mock Turtle said. “No wise fish would go anywhere

SOLE: *Dutch: tong* | EEL: *Dutch: paling*
SHRIMP: *Dutch: garnaal*

without a porpoise.”

“Wouldn’t it, really?” said Alice, in a tone of great surprise.

“Of course not,” said the Mock Turtle. “Why, if a fish came to *me*, and told me he was going a journey, I should say ‘With what porpoise?’ ”

“Don’t you mean ‘purpose?’” said Alice.

“I mean what I say,” the Mock Turtle replied, in an offended tone. And the Gryphon added “Come, let’s hear some of *your* adventures.”

“I could tell you my adventures — beginning from this morning,” said Alice a little timidly; “but it’s no use going back to yesterday, because I was a different person then.”

“Explain all that,” said the Mock Turtle.

“No, no! The adventures first,” said the Gryphon in an impatient tone: “explanations take such a dreadful time.”

So Alice began telling them her adventures from the time when she first saw the White Rabbit. She was a little nervous about it, just at first, the two creatures got so close to her, one on each side, and opened their eyes and mouths so very wide; but she gained courage as she went on. Her listeners were perfectly quiet till she got to the part about her repeating “*You are old, Father William,*” to the Caterpillar, and the words all coming different, and then the Mock Turtle drew a long breath, and said “That’s very curious!”

“It’s all about as curious as it can be,” said the Gryphon.

“It all came different!” the Mock Turtle repeated thoughtfully. “I should like to hear her try and repeat something now. Tell her to begin.” He looked at the Gryphon as if he thought it had some kind of authority over Alice.

“Stand up and repeat ‘*Tis the voice of the*

sluggard^{*},’ ” said the Gryphon.

“How the creatures order one about, and make one repeat lessons!” thought Alice. “I might just as well be at school at once.” However, she got up, and began to repeat it, but her head was so full of the Lobster-Quadrille, that she hardly knew what she was saying; and the words came very queer indeed:—⁴

“ ‘Tis the voice of the Lobster: I heard him declare
‘You have baked me too brown, I must sugar my hair.’
As a duck with its eyelids, so he with his nose
Trims^{*} his belt^{*} and his buttons^{*}, and turns out^{*} his
toes.
When the sands are all dry, he is gay as a lark^{*},

SLUGGARD: *lazy, slow-moving person*

TO TRIM: *make neat and tidy* | BELT: *band or strip of cloth, leather, etc. worn around the waist to keep clothes in place* |

BUTTON: *small, usually round bit of bone, metal, etc. for fastening articles of clothing* | TO TURN OUT: *point outwards*

GAY AS A LARK: *lighthearted, happy and full of fun*



⁴ The first line of this poem calls to mind the Biblical phrase ‘the voice of the turtle’ (Song of Songs 2: 12); actually it is a parody of the opening lines of *The Sluggard*, a poem by Isaac Watts which was well known to Carroll’s readers. Here is the first stanza:

*This the voice of the sluggard; I heard him complain,
You have wak’d me too soon, I must slumber again.
As the door on its hinges, so he on his bed,
Turns his sides and his shoulders and his heavy head.*

And will talk in contemptuous tones of the Shark:
But, when the tide rises and sharks are around,
His voice has a timid and tremulous* sound."*

SHARK: *Dutch*: haai

TREMULOUS: *trembling*

"That's different from what *I* used to say when I was a child," said the Gryphon.

"Well, *I* never heard it before," said the Mock Turtle; "but it sounds uncommon nonsense."

Alice said nothing: she had sat down with her face in her hands, wondering if anything would *ever* happen in a natural way again.

"I should like to have it explained," said the Mock Turtle.

"She ca'n't explain it," said the Gryphon hastily. "Go on with the next verse."

"But about his toes?" the Mock Turtle persisted. "How could he turn them out with his nose, you know?"

"It's the first position in dancing," Alice said; but she was dreadfully puzzled by the whole thing, and longed to change the subject.

"Go on with the next verse," the Gryphon repeated: "it begins '*I passed by his garden.*' "

Alice did not dare to disobey, though she felt sure it would all come wrong, and she went on in a trembling voice: —

*"I passed by his garden, and marked, with one eye,
How the Owl* and the Panther were sharing a pie*:
The Panther took pie-crust, and gravy*, and meat,
While the Owl had the dish as its share of the treat*.
When the pie was all finished, the Owl, as a boon*,
Was kindly permitted to pocket the spoon:
While the Panther received knife and fork with a growl,
And concluded the banquet by —"*

OWL: *Dutch*: uil | PIE: meat or fruit covered with pastry and baked in a deep dish | GRAVY: sauce made from juice which comes from meat while it is cooking | TREAT: sth. that gives pleasure |
BOON: favour

"What *is* the use of repeating all that stuff?" the Mock Turtle interrupted, "if you don't explain it as

you go on? It's by far the most confusing thing *I* ever heard!"

"Yes, I think you'd better leave off," said the Gryphon, and Alice was only too glad to do so.

"Shall we try another figure of the Lobster-Quadrille?" the Gryphon went on. "Or would you like the Mock Turtle to sing you another song?"

"Oh, a song, please, if the Mock Turtle would be so kind," Alice replied, so eagerly that the Gryphon said, in a rather offended tone, "Hm! No accounting for tastes! Sing her '*Turtle Soup*,' will you, old fellow?"

The Mock Turtle sighed deeply, and began, in a voice choked with sobs, to sing this: —⁵

*"Beautiful Soup, so rich and green,
Waiting in a hot tureen*!
Who for such dainties* would not stoop*?
Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup!
Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup!
Beau — ootiful Soo — oop!
Beau — ootiful Soo — oop!
Soo — oop of the e — e — evening,
Beautiful, beautiful Soup!"*

*"Beautiful Soup! Who cares for fish,
Game*, or any other dish?"*

*Who would not give all else for two
pennyworth only of beautiful Soup?
Pennyworth only of beautiful soup?
Beau — ootiful Soo — oop!
Beau — ootiful Soo — oop!
Soo — oop of the e — e — evening,
Beautiful, beauti — FUL SOUP!"*

"Chorus again!" cried the Gryphon, and the Mock Turtle had just begun to repeat it, when a cry of "The

TUREEN: deep dish with a lid, from which soup is served | DAINITIES: dish of food | TO STOOP TO STH;: lower oneself morally

GAME: (collective) flesh of animals and birds hunted for sport and food

⁵ On August 1, 1862, Carroll records in his diary that the Liddell sisters sang for him the popular song '*Star of the Evening*.' The words and music were by James M. Sayles.

trial's beginning!" was heard in the distance.

"Come on!" cried the Gryphon, and, taking Alice by the hand, it hurried off, without waiting for the end of the song.

"What trial is it?" Alice panted as she ran; but the Gryphon only answered "Come on!" and ran the faster, while more and more faintly came, carried on the breeze* that followed them, the melancholy words: —

*"Soo — oop of the e — e — evening,
Beautiful, beautiful Soup*

BREEZE: soft, gentle wind

CHAPTER XI

Who Stole the Tarts?

The King and Queen of Hearts were seated on their throne when they arrived, with a great crowd assembled about them — all sorts of little birds and beasts, as well as the whole pack of cards: the Knave was standing before them, in chains, with a soldier on each side to guard him; and near the King was the White Rabbit, with a trumpet in one hand, and a scroll of parchment* in the other. In the very middle of the court was a table, with a large dish of tarts upon it: they looked so good, that it made Alice quite hungry to look at them — “I wish they’d get the trial done,” she thought, “and hand round the refreshments!” But there seemed to be no chance of this; so she began looking at everything about her to pass away the time.

Alice had never been in a court of justice before, but she had read about them in books, and she was quite pleased to find that she knew the name of nearly everything there. “That’s the judge,” she said to herself, “because of his great wig.”

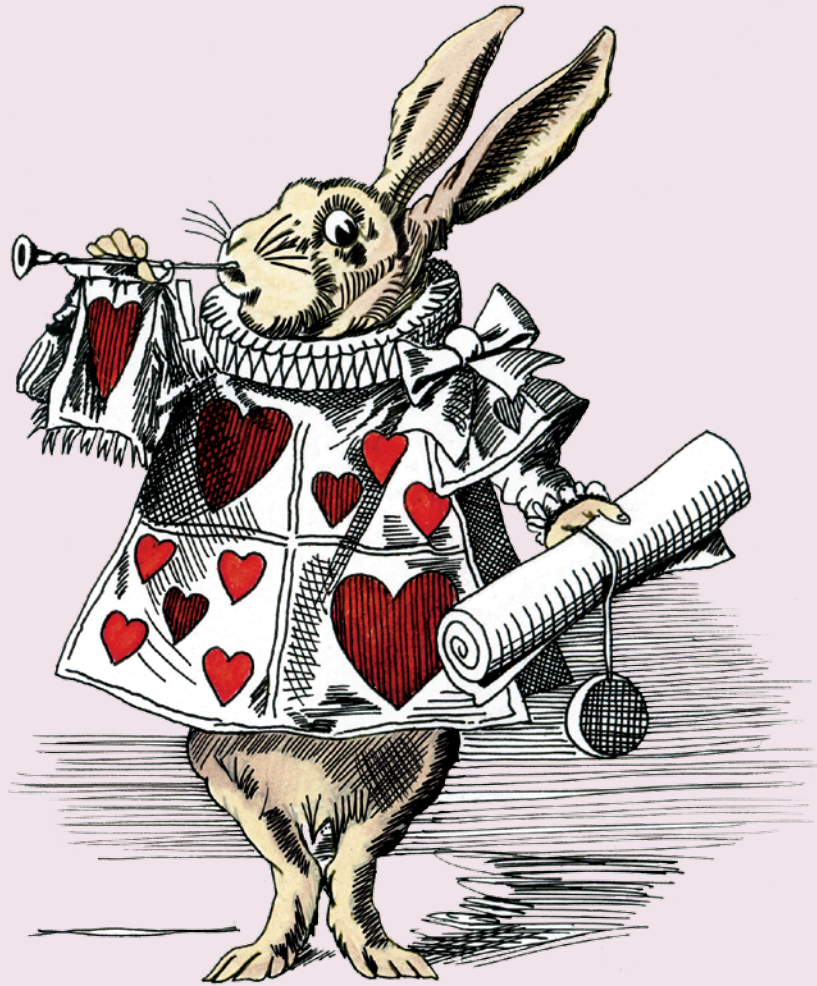
The judge, by the way, was the King; and, as he wore his crown over the wig* (look at the cover of this bulkboek if you want to see how he did it), he did not look at all comfortable, and it was certainly not becoming.

“And that’s the jury-box,” thought Alice; “and those twelve creatures,” (she was obliged to say “creatures,” you see, because some of them were animals, and some were birds,) “I suppose they are the jurors*.” She said this last word two or three times over to herself, being rather proud of it: for she thought, and rightly too, that very few little girls of her age knew the meaning of it at all. However,

SCROLL OF PARCHMENT: roll of writing material prepared from the skin of a sheep or goat

WIG: head-covering of false hair

JUROR: member of a jury



“jurymen” would have done just as well.

The twelve jurors were all writing very busily on slates*. “What are they doing?” Alice whispered to the Gryphon. “They ca’n’t have anything to put down yet, before the trial’s begun.”

“They’re putting down their names,” the Gryphon whispered in reply, “for fear they should forget them before the end of the trial.”

“Stupid things!” Alice began in a loud indignant* voice; but she stopped herself hastily, for the White Rabbit cried out “Silence in the court!”, and the King put on his spectacles and looked anxiously round, to make out who was talking.

Alice could see, as well as if she were looking over their shoulders, that all the jurors were writing down

SLATE: sheet of blue-grey stone in a frame for writing as formerly used by schoolchildren

INDIGNANT: angry and scornful

“Stupid things!” on their slates, and she could even make out that one of them didn’t know how to spell “stupid,” and that he had to ask his neighbour to tell him. “A nice muddle their slates’ll be in, before the trial’s over!” thought Alice.

One of the jurors had a pencil that squeaked*. This, of course, Alice could *not* stand, and she went round the court and got behind him, and very soon found an opportunity of taking it away. She did it so quickly that the poor little juror (it was Bill, the Lizard) could not make out at all what had become of it; so, after hunting all about for it, he was obliged to write with one finger for the rest of the day; and this was of very little use, as it left no mark on the slate.

“Herald*, read the accusation!” said the King. On this the White Rabbit blew three blasts on the trumpet, and then unrolled the parchment-scroll, and read as follows: —

*“The Queen of Hearts, she made some tarts,
All on a summer day:
The Knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts
And took them quite away!”*

“Consider your verdict*,” the King said to the jury. “Not yet, not yet!” the Rabbit hastily interrupted. “There’s a great deal to come before that!”

“Call the first witness*,” said the King; and the White Rabbit blew three blasts on the trumpet, and called out “First witness!”

The first witness was the Hatter. He came in with a teacup in one hand and a piece of bread-and-butter in the other. “I beg pardon, your Majesty,” he began, “for bringing these in; but I hadn’t quite finished my tea when I was sent for.”

“You ought to have finished,” said the King. “When did you begin?”

The Hatter looked at the March Hare, who had

TO SQUEAK: **make a short, shrill noise, as from an unoiled door-hinge**

HERALD: **person making public announcements**

VERDICT: **decision reached by a jury on a question of fact in a law case**

WITNESS: **person who gives evidence under oath in a law court**

followed him into the court, arm-in-arm with the Dormouse. “Fourteenth of March, I *think* it was,” he said.

“Fifteenth,” said the March Hare.

“Sixteenth,” said the Dormouse.

“Write that down,” the King said to the jury; and the jury eagerly wrote down all three dates on their slates, and then added them up, and reduced the answer to shillings and pence.

“Take off your hat,” the King said to the Hatter.

“It isn’t mine,” said the Hatter.

“*Stolen!*” the King exclaimed, turning to the jury, who instantly made a memorandum of the fact.

“I keep them to sell,” the Hatter added as an explanation. “I’ve none of my own. I’m a hatter.”

Here the Queen put on her spectacles, and began staring hard at the Hatter, who turned pale and fidgeted.

“Give your evidence*,” said the King; “and don’t be nervous, or I’ll have you executed on the spot*.”

This did not seem to encourage the witness at all: he kept shifting from one foot to the other, looking uneasily at the Queen, and in his confusion he bit a large piece out of his teacup instead of the bread-and-butter.

Just at this moment Alice felt a very curious sensation*, which puzzled her a good deal until she made out what it was: she was beginning to grow larger again, and she thought at first she would get up and leave the court; but on second thoughts she decided to remain where she was as long as there was room for her.

“I wish you wouldn’t squeeze so,” said the Dormouse, who was sitting next to her. “I can hardly breathe.”

“I ca’n’t help it,” said Alice very meekly: “I’m growing.”

“You’ve no right to grow *here*,” said the

EVIDENCE: anything that gives reason for believing sth., that makes clear or proves sth, | ON THE SPOT: immediately

SENSATION: feeling

Dormouse.

“Don’t talk nonsense,” said Alice more boldly: “you know you’re growing too.”

“Yes, but *I* grow at a reasonable pace,” said the Dormouse: “not in that ridiculous fashion.” And he got up very sulkily and crossed over to the other side of the court.

All this time the Queen had never left off staring at the Hatter, and, just as the Dormouse crossed the court, she said, to one of the officers of the court, “Bring me the list of the singers in the last concert!” on which the wretched Hatter trembled so, that he shook off both his shoes. [■]

“Give your evidence,” the King repeated angrily,



[■] *The Queen is recalling the occasion, described in Chapter 7, on which the Hatter murdered the time by singing Twinkle, twinkle, little bat ! ‘*

“or I’ll have you executed, whether you’re nervous or not.”

“I’m a poor man, your Majesty,” the Hatter began, in a trembling voice, “and I hadn’t begun my tea — not above a week or so — and what with the bread-and-butter getting so thin — and the twinkling of the tea”.

“The twinkling of *what?*” said the King.

“It *began* with the tea,” the Hatter replied.

“Of course twinkling *begins* with a T!” said the King sharply.

“Do you take me for a dunce*? Go on!”

DUNCE: **stupid person**

“I’m a poor man,” the Hatter went on, “and most things twinkled after that — only the March Hare said —”

“I didn’t!” the March Hare interrupted in a great hurry.

“You did!” said the Hatter.

“I deny* it!” said the March Hare.

DENY: **say that sth. is not true**

“He denies it,” said the King: “leave out that part.”

“Well, at any rate, the Dormouse said —” the Hatter went on, looking anxiously round to see if he would deny it too; but the Dormouse denied nothing, being fast asleep.

“After that,” continued the Hatter, “I cut some more bread-and-butter —”

“But what did the Dormouse say?” one of the jury asked.

“That I ca’n’t remember,” said the Hatter.

“You *must* remember,” remarked the King, “or I’ll have you executed.

“The miserable Hatter dropped his teacup and bread-and-butter, and went down on one knee. “I’m a poor man, your Majesty,” he began.

“You’re a very poor *speaker*,” said the King.

Here one of the guinea-pigs cheered, and was immediately suppressed* by the officers of the court. (As that is rather a hard word, I will just explain to

TO SUPPRESS: **put an end to the activity of**

you how it was done. They had a large canvas bag, which tied up at the mouth with strings: into this they slipped the guinea-pig, head first, and then sat upon it.)

“I’m glad I’ve seen that done,” thought Alice. “I’ve so often read in the newspapers, at the end of trials, ‘There was some attempt at applause, which was immediately suppressed by the officers of the court,’ and I never understood what it meant till now.”

“If that’s all you know about it, you may stand down,” continued the King.

“I ca’n’t go no lower,” said the Hatter: “I’m on the floor, as it is.”

“Then you may *sit* down,” the King replied. Here the other guinea-pig cheered, and was suppressed.

“Come, that finishes the guinea-pigs!” thought Alice. “Now we shall get on better.”

“I’d rather finish my tea,” said the Hatter, with an anxious look at the Queen, who was reading the list of singers.

“You may go,” said the King, and the Hatter hurriedly left the court, without even waiting to put his shoes on.

“— and just take his head off outside,” the Queen



added to one of the officers; but the Hatter was out of sight before the officer could get to the door.

“Call the next witness!” said the King.

The next witness was the Duchess’s cook. She carried the pepper-box in her hand, and Alice guessed who it was, even before she got into the court, by the way the people near the door began sneezing all at once.

“Give your evidence,” said the King.

“Sha’n’t,” said the cook.

The King looked anxiously at the White Rabbit, who said, in a low voice, “Your Majesty must cross-examine* this witness.”

“Well, if I must, I must,” the King said with a melancholy air, and, after folding his arms and frowning at the cook till his eyes were nearly out of sight, he said, in a deep voice, “What are tarts made of?”

“Pepper, mostly,” said the cook.

“Treacle,” said a sleepy voice behind her.

“Collar* that Dormouse!” the Queen shrieked out. “Behead that Dormouse! Turn that Dormouse out of court! Suppress him! Pinch him! Off with his whiskers!”

For some minutes the whole court was in confusion, getting the Dormouse turned out, and, by the time they had settled down again, the cook had disappeared.

“Never mind!” said the King, with an air of great relief. “Call the next witness.” And, he added, in an undertone to the Queen, “Really, my dear, *you* must cross-examine the next witness. It quite makes my forehead ache!”

Alice watched the White Rabbit as he fumbled over the list, feeling very curious to see what the next witness would be like, “— for they haven’t got much evidence *yet*,” she said to herself. Imagine her surprise, when the White Rabbit read out, at the top of his shrill little voice, the name “Alice!”

TO CROSS-EXAMINE: question closely, esp. to test answers already given to someone else

TO COLLAR: take hold of roughly

CHAPTER XII

Alice's Evidence

“Here!” cried Alice, quite forgetting in the flurry of the moment how large she had grown in the last few minutes, and she jumped up in such a hurry that she tipped over the jury-box with the edge of her skirt, upsetting all the jurymen on to the heads of the crowd below, and there they lay sprawling about, reminding her very much of a globe of gold-fish she had accidentally upset the week before.

“Oh, I *beg* your pardon!” she exclaimed in a tone of great dismay*, and began picking them up again as quickly as she could, for the accident of the gold-fish kept running in her head, and she had a vague sort of idea that they must be collected at once and put back into the jury-box, or they would die.

“The trial cannot proceed,” said the King, in a very grave voice, “until all the jurymen are back in their proper places — *all*,” he repeated with great emphasis, looking hard at Alice as he said so.

Alice looked at the jury-box, and saw that, in her haste, she had put the Lizard in head downwards, and the poor little thing was waving its tail about in a melancholy way, being quite unable to move. She soon got it out again, and put it right; “not that it signifies much,” she said to herself; “I should think it would be *quite* as much use in the trial one way up as the other.”

As soon as the jury had a little recovered from the shock of being upset, and their slates and pencils had been found and handed back to them, they set to work very diligently to write out a history of the accident, all except the Lizard, who seemed too much overcome to do anything but sit with its mouth open, gazing up into the roof of the court.

DISMAY: feeling of fear and discouragement



“What do you know about this business?” the King said to Alice.

“Nothing,” said Alice.

“Nothing *whatever*?” persisted the King.

“Nothing whatever,” said Alice.

“That’s very important,” the King said, turning to the jury. They were just beginning to write this down on their slates, when the White Rabbit interrupted: “*Unimportant*, your Majesty means, of course,” he said, in a very respectful tone, but frowning and making faces at him as he spoke.

“*Unimportant*, of course, I meant,” the King hastily said, and went on to himself in an undertone, “important — unimportant — unimportant —

important —” as if he were trying which word sounded best.

Some of the jury wrote it down “important,” and some “unimportant”. Alice could see this, as she was near enough to look over their slates; “but it doesn’t matter a bit,” she thought to herself.

At this moment the King, who had been for some time busily writing in his note-book, called out “Silence!”, and read out from his book, “Rule Forty-two. All persons more than a mile high to leave the court.”

Everybody looked at Alice.

“*I’m* not a mile high,” said Alice.

“You are,” said the King.

“Nearly two miles high,” added the Queen.

“Well, I sha’n’t go, at any rate,” said Alice:

“besides, that’s not a regular rule: you invented it just now.”

“It’s the oldest rule in the book,” said the King.

“Then it ought to be Number One,” said Alice.

The King turned pale, and shut his note-book hastily.

“Consider your verdict,” he said to the jury, in a low trembling voice.

“There’s more evidence to come yet, please your Majesty,” said the White Rabbit, jumping up in a great hurry: “this paper has just been picked up.”

“What’s in it?” said the Queen.

“I haven’t opened it yet,” said the White Rabbit; “but it seems to be a letter, written by the prisoner to — to somebody.”

“It must have been that,” said the King, “unless it was written to nobody, which isn’t usual, you know.”

“Who is it directed to?” said one of the jurymen.

“It isn’t directed at all,” said the White Rabbit: “in fact, there’s nothing written on the *outside*.” He unfolded the paper as he spoke, and added “It isn’t a letter, after all: it’s a set of verses.”

“Are they in the prisoner’s handwriting?” asked another of the jurymen.

“No, they’re not,” said the White Rabbit, “and that’s the queerest thing about it.” (The jury all looked puzzled.)

“He must have imitated somebody else’s hand,” said the King. (The jury all brightened up again.)

“Please your Majesty,” said the Knave, “I didn’t write it, and they ca’n’t prove that I did: there’s no name signed at the end.”

“If you didn’t sign it,” said the King, “that only makes the matter worse. *You* must have meant some mischief^{*}, or else you’d have signed your name like an honest man.”

MISCHIEF: moral harm or injury

There was a general clapping of hands at this: it was the first really clever thing the King had said that day.

“That *proves* his guilt, of course,” said the Queen: “so, off with —.”

“It doesn’t prove anything of the sort!” said Alice. “Why, you don’t even know what they’re about!”

“Read them,” said the King.

The White Rabbit put on his spectacles. “Where shall I begin, please your Majesty?” he asked.

“Begin at the beginning,” the King said, very gravely, “and go on till you come to the end: then stop.”

“There was dead silence in the court, whilst the White Rabbit read out these verses: — ■

*“They told me you had been to her,
And mentioned me to him:
She gave me a good character,
But said I could not swim.*

He sent them word I had not gone

■ *The White Rabbit’s evidence consists of six verses with confused pronouns and very little sense. They are taken in considerably revised form from Carroll’s*

eight-verse nonsense poem, She’s All My Fancy Painted Him, which first appeared in The Comic Times of London in 1855.

*(We know it to be true):
If she should push the matter on,
What would become of you?*

*I gave her one, they gave him two,
You gave us three or more;
They all returned from him to you,
Though they were mine before.*

*If I or she should chance to be
Involved in this affair,
He trusts to you to set them free,
Exactly as we were.*

*My notion was that you had been
(Before she had this fit)
An obstacle that came between
Him, and ourselves, and it.*

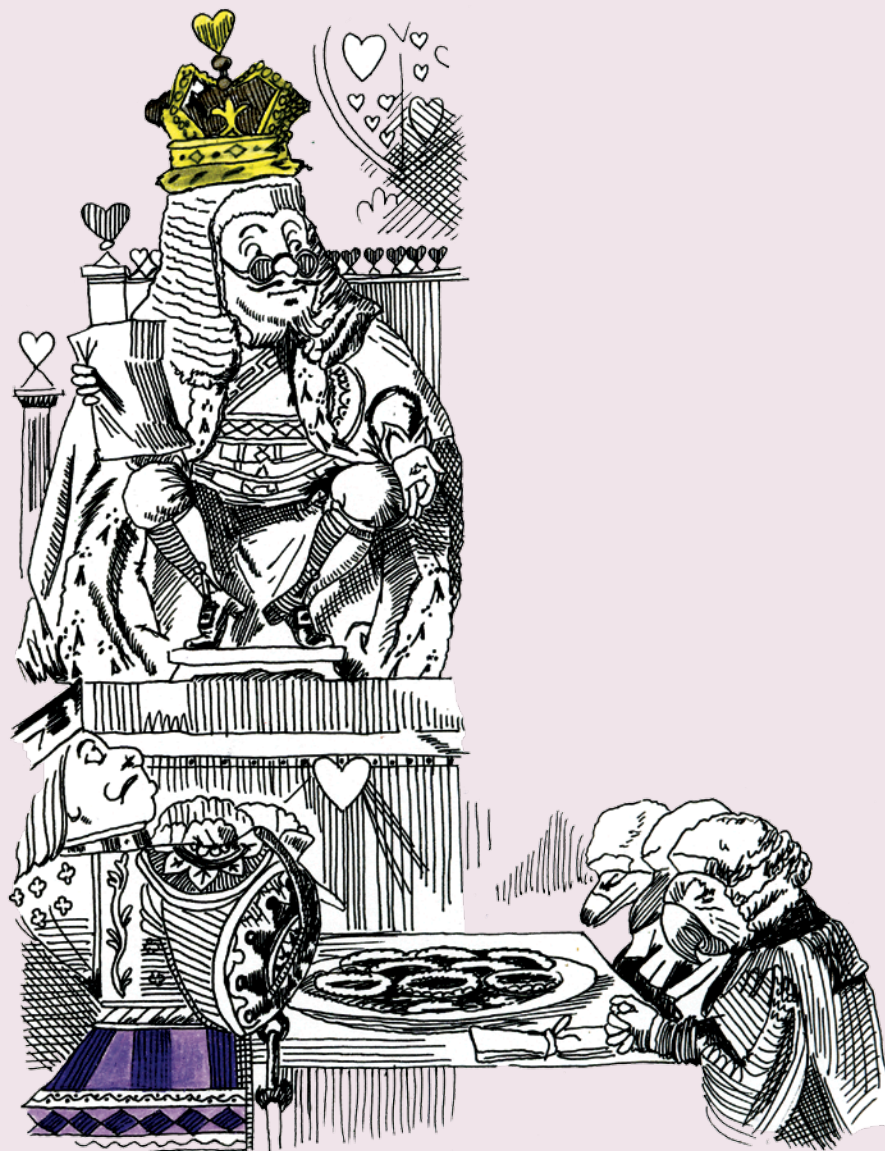
*Don't let him know she liked them best,
For this must ever be
A secret, kept from all the rest,
Between yourself and me."*

“That’s the most important piece of evidence we’ve heard yet,” said the King, rubbing his hands; “so now let the jury —”

“If any one of them can explain it,” said Alice, (she had grown so large in the last few minutes that she wasn’t a bit afraid of interrupting him,) “I’ll give him sixpence. *I don’t believe there’s an atom of meaning** in it.

NO ATOM OF MEANING IN IT: **no meaning
at all**

“The jury all wrote down, on their slates, “*She* doesn’t believe there’s an atom of meaning in it,” but none of them attempted to explain the paper. “If there’s no meaning in it,” said the King, “that saves a world of trouble, you know, as we needn’t try to find any. And yet I don’t know,” he went on, spreading



out the verses on his knee, and looking at them with one eye; “I seem to see some meaning in them, after all. ‘— *said I could not swim* —’ you ca’n’t swim, can you?” he added, turning to the Knave. The Knave shook his head sadly. “Do I look like it?” he said. (Which he certainly did not, being made entirely of cardboard.)

“All right, so far,” said the King; and he went on muttering over the verses to himself: “‘*We know it to be true*’ — that’s the jury, of course — ‘*If she should push the matter on*’ — that must be the Queen— ‘*What would become of you?*’ — What, indeed! — ‘*I*

gave her one, they gave him two’ — why, that must be what he did with the tarts, you know —”

“But it goes on ‘*they all returned from him to you*,’ ” said Alice.

“Why, there they are!” said the King triumphantly, pointing to the tarts on the table. “Nothing can be clearer than *that*. Then again —

‘*before she had this fit**’ — you never had fits, my dear, I think?” he said to the Queen.

“Never!” said the Queen, furiously, throwing an inkstand* at the Lizard as she spoke. (The unfortunate little Bill had left off writing on his slate with one finger, as he found it made no mark; but he now hastily began again, using the ink, that was trickling down his face, as long as it lasted.)

“Then the words don’t *fit* you,” said the King, looking round the court with a smile. There was a dead silence.⁷

“It’s a pun*!” the King added in an angry tone, and everybody laughed. “Let the jury consider their verdict,” the King said, for about the twentieth time that day.

“No, no!” said the Queen. “Sentence first — verdict afterwards.”

“Stuff and nonsense!” said Alice loudly. “The idea of having the sentence first!”

“Hold your tongue!” said the Queen, turning purple.”I wo’n’t!” said Alice.

“Off with her head!” the Queen shouted at the top of her voice. Nobody moved.

“Who cares for *you*?” said Alice (she had grown to her full size by this time). “You’re nothing but a pack of cards!” At this the whole pack rose up into the air, and came flying down upon her; she gave a little scream, half of fright and half of anger, and tried to beat them off, and found herself lying on the bank, with her head in the lap of her sister, who was gently brushing away some dead leaves that had fluttered

FIT: sudden, usually short, attacks of illness

INKSTAND: stand for one or more ink bottles, with grooves or a tray for pens

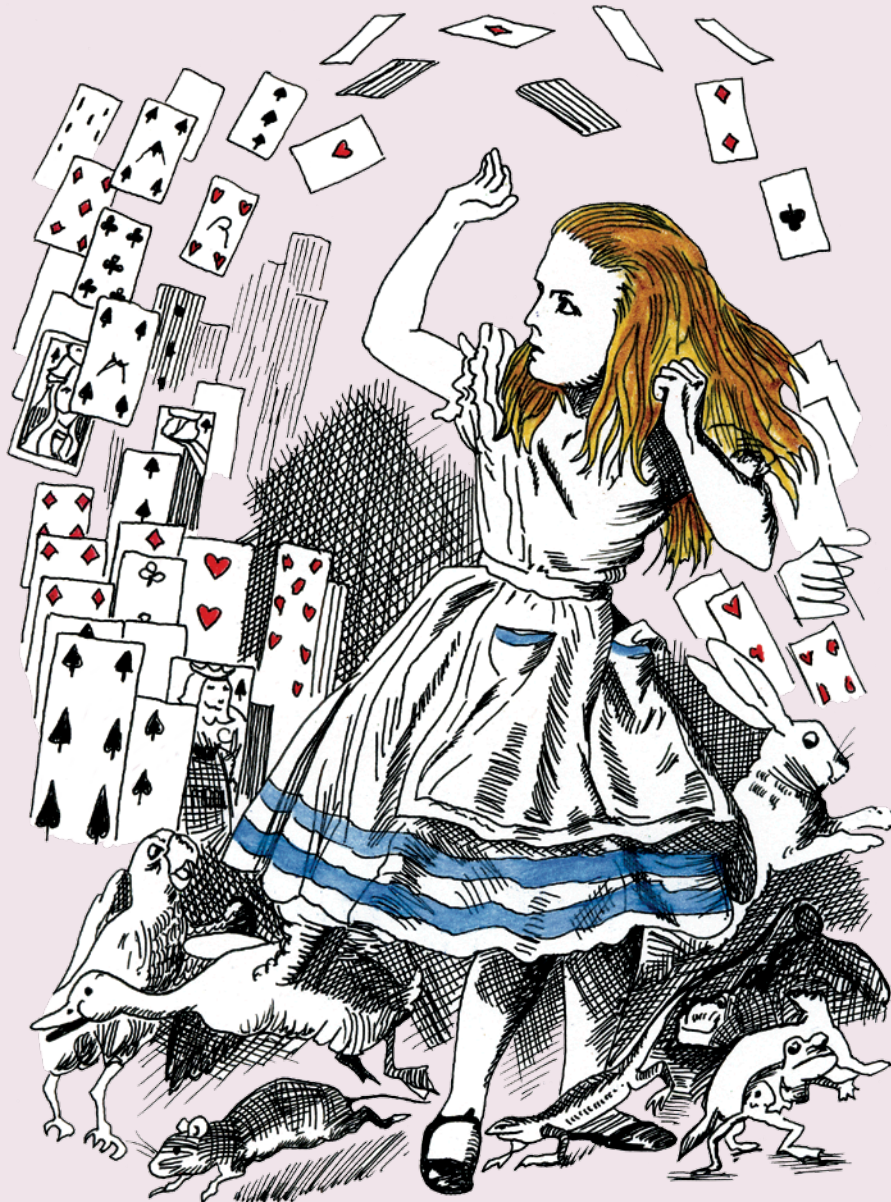
PUN: humorous use of words which sound the same or of two meanings of the same word

down from the trees upon her face.

“Wake up, Alice dear!” said her sister. “Why, what a long sleep you’ve had!”

“Oh, I’ve had such a curious dream!” said Alice. And she told her sister, as well as she could remember them, all these strange Adventures of hers that you have just been reading about; and, when she had finished, her sister kissed her, and said “It *was* a curious dream, dear, certainly; but now run in to your tea: it’s getting late.”

So Alice got up and ran off, thinking while she ran, as well she might, what a wonderful dream it



had been. But her sister sat still just as she left her, leaning her head on her hand, watching the setting sun, and thinking of little Alice and all her wonderful Adventures, till she too began dreaming after a fashion, and this was her dream: —

First, she dreamed about little Alice herself: once again the tiny hands were clasped upon her knee, and the bright eager eyes were looking up into hers — she could hear the very tones of her voice, and see that queer little toss of her head to keep back the wandering hair that would always get into her eyes — and still as she listened, or seemed to listen, the whole place around her became alive with the strange creatures of her little sister’s dream.

The long grass rustled at her feet as the White Rabbit hurried by — the frightened Mouse splashed his way through the neighbouring pool — she could hear the rattle of the teacups as the March Hare and his friends shared their never-ending meal, and the shrill voice of the Queen ordering off her unfortunate guests to execution — once more the pig-baby was sneezing on the Duchess’s knee, while plates and dishes crashed around it — once more the shriek of the Gryphon, the squeaking of the Lizard’s slate-pencil, and the choking* of the suppressed guinea-pigs, filled the air, mixed up with the distant* sob of the miserable Mock Turtle.

So she sat on, with closed eyes, and half believed herself in Wonderland, though she knew she had but to open them again, and all would change to dull* reality — the grass would be only rustling in the wind, and the pool rippling to the waving of the reeds* — the rattling teacups would change to tinkling sheep-bells, and the Queen’s shrill cries to the voice of the shepherd-boy — and the sneeze of the baby, the shriek of the Gryphon, and all the other queer noises, would change (she knew) to the confused clamour* of the busy farm-yard — while

CHOKING: inability to breathe

DISTANT: far away

DULL: uninteresting

REED: *Dutch: riet*

CLAMOUR: loud confused noise

the lowing of the cattle in the distance would take the place of the Mock Turtle's heavy sobs.

Lastly, she pictured to herself how this same little sister of hers would, in the after-time*, be herself a grown woman; and how she would keep, through all her riper years, the simple and loving heart of her childhood; and how she would gather about her other little children, and make their eyes bright and eager with many a strange tale, perhaps even with the dream of Wonderland of long ago; and how she would feel with all their simple sorrows, and find a pleasure in all their simple joys, remembering her own child-life, and the happy summer days.

AFTER-TIME: *sometime in the future*

QUESTIONS ON Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

CHAPTER I

- 1 "...The hot day made her (Alice) feel very sleepy and stupid": Why stupid?
- 2 Lewis Carroll quite often uses parentheses: for example "as well as she could,..." What is this usage supposed to indicate?
- 3 The liquid in the little bottle had 'a sort of mixed flavour of cherry-tart, custard, pine-apple, roast turkey, toffy, and hot buttered toast.' Why do you think Carroll chose such a strange combination of tastes?

CHAPTER II

- 4 "Curiouser and curiouser" cried Alice. What should one say in good English?
- 5 Alice asks herself, "Who in the world am I?" Why does she think she does not know who she is?
- 6 What does the Mouse mean when he says "We, indeed!" in answer to what Alice has said? Why 'we'?

CHAPTER III

- 7 What plan does the Mouse have for getting everyone dry? How is he using the word "dry"?
- 8 The Eaglet tells the Dodo to speak English as he does not know the meaning of half the long words the Dodo has used. Do

you? In your own words, explain what the Dodo said.

- 9 "You promised to tell me your history, you know: said Alice, „and why it is you hate C and D: ...". What do C and D stand for?
- 10 Why does Alice Say „A knot!“ to the Mouse?

CHAPTER IV

- 11 Alice again finds a little bottle. How does - what she then does- show us that she has changed?
- 12 What happened to Bill that made it necessary to „give him some brandy“?
- 13 What should Alice have learned from her experience with the puppy that might help her in her contacts with the animals she meets, like the Mouse?

CHAPTER V

- 14 Write down the differences between Alice's version of *Father William* and the original poem by Robert Southey.
- 15 When Alice says "three inches is such a wretched height to be", she insults the Caterpillar. Which other creatures has she already offended and how?
- 16 What was the advice that Alice got from the Caterpillar? How does she use his advice? (Notice later how she keeps using it.)

CHAPTER VI

- 17 Just after Alice meets the Frog-Footman, she says to herself that it is dreadful the way all creatures argue. What experience of this sort has she had up to this point?
- 18 How has the Duchess in her lullaby changed the basic attitude towards the young expressed in the original poem?

CHAPTER VII

- 19 What is your answer to the Hatter's Riddle "Why is a raven like a writing-desk"?
- 20 What does Alice mean when she uses the word 'beat' in the expression "to beat time"? What does the Hatter mean when he uses the same word?
- 21 When did Alice first become involved with a golden key? How did that experience end?

CHAPTER VIII

- 22 Why is the Queen silent after Alice says 'Nonsense'?
- 23 What do the soldiers mean when they say 'their heads are gone' in answer to the Queen's question? What is she supposed to think they mean?
- 24 Why does Alice not think it is a pity that the Duchess is under sentence of execution?

CHAPTER IX

- 25 This chapter is full of puns (= wordspeling). Write down as many examples of puns as you can find, and then be able to explain how they are puns.

- 26 Is the Duchess as ugly as Alice thinks she is? Describe the Duchess.
- 27 How has the Duchess changed since Alice first met her? Why do you think she has changed?

CHAPTER X

- 28 How does Alice show us that she has learned to be more careful about what she says?
- 29 Can you explain the text of 'Tis the voice of the Lobster'?

CHAPTER XI

- 30 During the trial Alice starts growing again. Exactly how often has she changed size and/or shape? What caused her to do so each time?
- 31 Who did steal the tarts? Can you remember any other such 'unsolved' questions or problems which we encountered previously in the story?

CHAPTER XII

- 32 Alice thought she had had a wonderful dream. Do you agree? Did she think so during the dream? Give examples.
- 33 Try to draw a map of Wonderland showing how Alice walked through it, the various stops she made, and the 'people' she met.