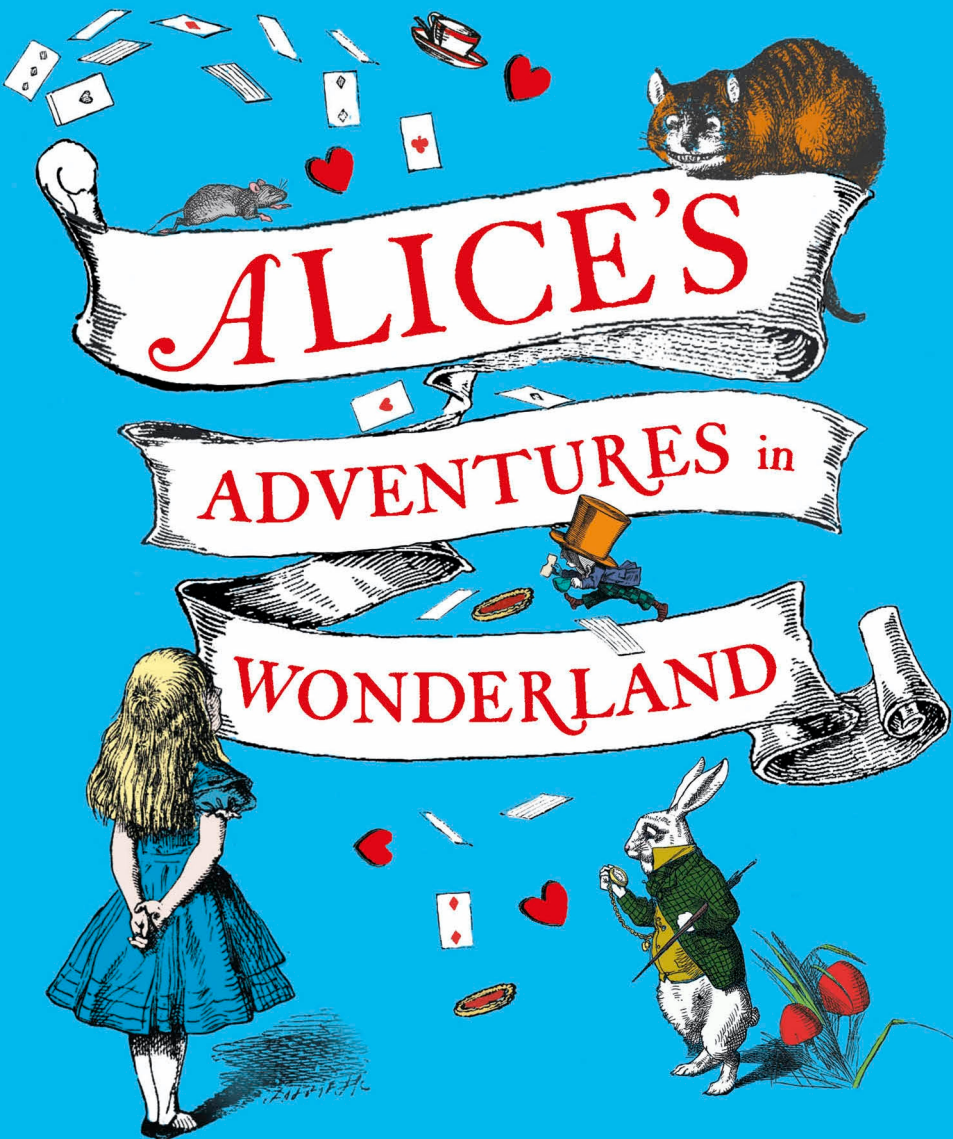


Penguin  Readers

LEWIS CARROLL



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Note about the story

Lewis Carroll (27 January 1832 – 14 January 1898) was an English writer. His **real*** name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, and he was from Cheshire in England. He studied maths at Oxford University, and, later, he taught maths there.

Lewis Carroll wrote a lot of books for children. He wrote *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in 1865, and it is now one of the most famous children's books in the world.

Before-reading questions

- 1 Read the title of the book. Do you know the story? What is it about?
- 2 Read the back cover of the book. Which of these sentences are true, do you think?
 - a The story is about a little girl.
 - b The little girl goes to Japan on holiday.
 - c The little girl meets lots of new people and animals.
 - d The book is a true story.
- 3 Look at the "People and animals in the story" on page 4. Choose two, and describe them.

*Definitions of words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on pages 63–64.

CHAPTER ONE Down the rabbit-hole

Alice was **bored**. She was at the river with her sister, but her sister had a book. Alice looked at the book, but there were no pictures in it. "A book with no pictures is not good," Alice thought.

It was a hot day, and Alice was tired. She looked at some pretty yellow flowers in the grass by her feet. **Suddenly**, a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran past her. The Rabbit took a small watch from his coat, and he looked at it. "**Oh dear**, oh dear! I will be late," the Rabbit said. Then he ran away across the grass.

Alice was **surprised** to see a Rabbit with a coat and a watch. She **jumped** up, and she ran after him. The Rabbit came to a tree. Under the tree, there was a big **rabbit-hole**, and the Rabbit jumped into it. Alice jumped into the rabbit-hole after the Rabbit.

Alice went down and down. "This rabbit-hole is very long," Alice thought. "I will come to the middle of

the Earth!" Suddenly, Alice hit the ground at the end of the rabbit-hole. She was in a long hall, and she could see the White Rabbit at the other side.



Alice ran across the hall. She came to the other side, but the White Rabbit was not there. Alice looked across the hall. There were lots of doors in the hall, and Alice tried to open one of them. It was **locked**. Alice tried to open the other doors. They were all locked. "Oh dear," she said. "I can't leave this hall."

Alice walked to the middle of the hall. She came to a glass table, and on the table there was a little key. Alice took the key, and she went back to the doors. But the key did not open any of the doors. Then Alice saw a little curtain. Behind the curtain, there was a little door.



Alice tried to open the little door with the key – and it opened! She looked through the door, and she saw a beautiful garden. She saw green grass and pretty flowers. Alice wanted to go into the garden and walk in the flowers. But the door was small, and Alice was big. She could not **fit** through the door.

Alice went back to the glass table, and she was surprised to see a small bottle on the table. “Where did *you* come from?” she said to the bottle. And then she saw the words “DRINK ME” on the bottle.



Alice was an intelligent girl, and she knew about **poison**. “Poison can kill people. I must not drink poison,” Alice thought. But this bottle did not say “POISON” on it. It said “DRINK ME”, and Alice drank it. The drink in the bottle was sweet, and Alice drank it all.

Then a strange thing happened. Alice started to get smaller. “Now I can get through the little door and into the garden,” she thought. She ran to the curtain, but then she remembered the key. It was on the glass table. “Oh dear,” Alice said. “Now I am too small to get the key.” Alice sat under the table, and she started to cry. But then she saw a little glass box. Alice was surprised. “Where did *you* come from?” she said to the box. Alice opened the box, and she saw a small cake. There were the words “EAT ME” on the cake.

“I will eat the cake,” Alice thought. “But will I get taller or smaller?” Alice ate a little **piece** of the cake. She put her hand on her head. “Am I getting taller or smaller?” she said. But nothing happened. Alice quickly ate all of the cake.