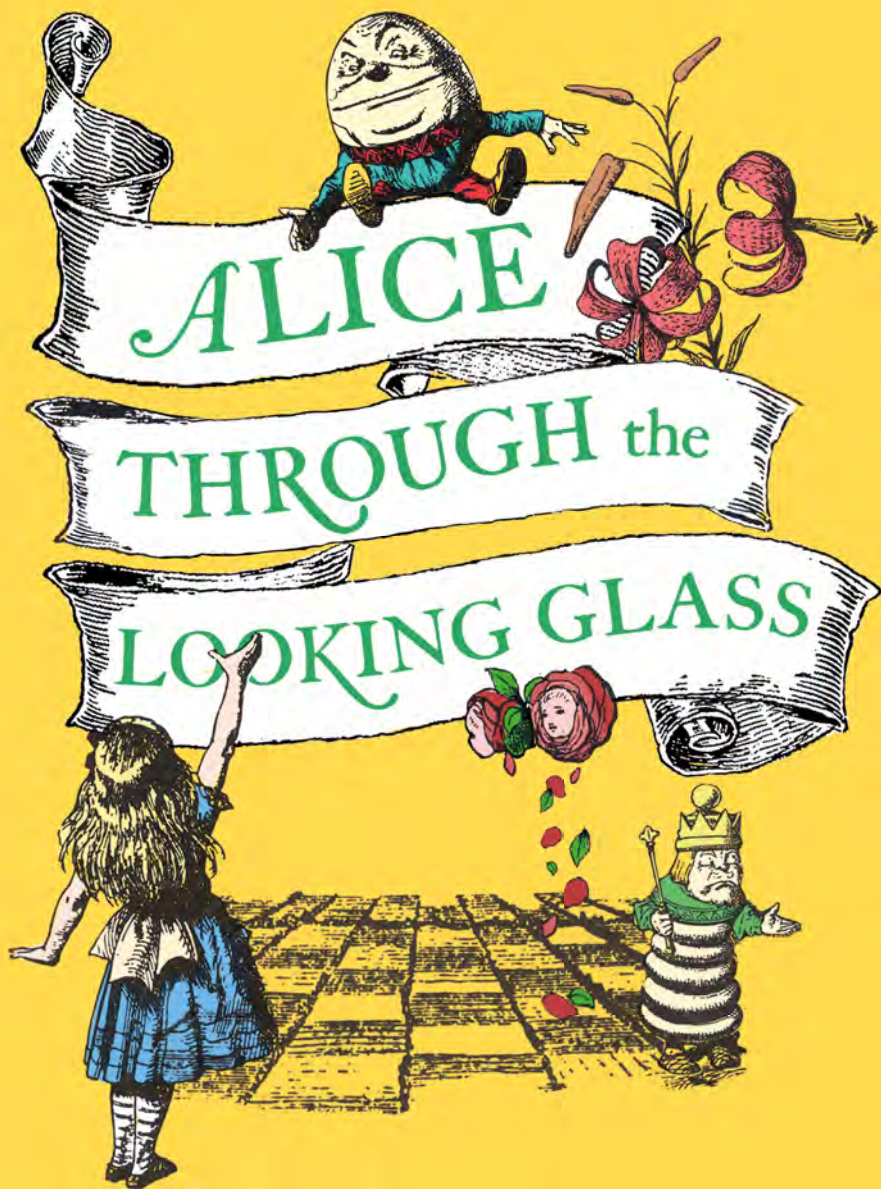


Penguin



Readers



LEWIS CARROLL

Penguin  Readers

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS

LEWIS CARROLL

LEVEL

3

RETOLD BY HELEN HOLWILL
ILLUSTRATED BY JOHN TENNIEL
SERIES EDITOR: SORREL PITTS

Contents

People and animals in the story	4
New words	5
Note about the story	6
Before-reading question	6
Chapter One – Looking-glass House	7
Chapter Two – The garden of talking flowers	15
Chapter Three – Looking-glass insects	22
Chapter Four – Tweedledum and Tweedledee	28
Chapter Five – Wool and water	33
Chapter Six – Humpty Dumpty	40
Chapter Seven – The Lion and the Unicorn	47
Chapter Eight – “It’s my own invention”	54
Chapter Nine – Queen Alice	59
Chapter Ten – Waking up	67
During-reading questions	70
After-reading questions	71
Exercises	72
Project work	77
Glossary	78

People and animals in the story



Alice



The White Queen
and the Red Queen



Tweedledum and
Tweedledee



Humpty Dumpty



The Unicorn and the Lion

New words



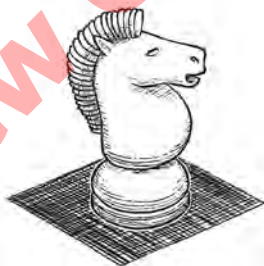
chess



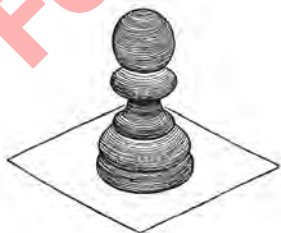
crown



daisy



knight



pawn



shawl

Note about the story

Lewis Carroll (1832–1898) was an English writer. He wrote many books for children. He wrote his most famous book, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, in 1865. Then he wrote a second book about Alice, called *Through the Looking-Glass*, in 1871.

In *Through the Looking-Glass*, Alice **dreams*** about a different world from Wonderland. In the **dream**, she climbs through a **looking-glass** in her house. A looking-glass is an older word for a mirror. In the “Looking-glass World” everything is **backwards** and very strange things happen. Alice’s young life is like a game of **chess** in the dream and she has to **move** through eight different “chess squares” or places. She also meets lots of different people and **creatures** – or “chess **pieces**” – on this journey. Some of the creatures are from other famous children’s stories and songs – for example, Humpty Dumpty, and Tweedledum and Tweedledee.

Before-reading question

- 1 Look at the cover of the book, and read the “Note about the story”. What will happen to Alice in this story, do you think?
 - a Alice will travel to a different city.
 - b Alice will become a queen.
 - c Some dangerous animals will attack Alice.

*Definitions of words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on pages 78–80.

CHAPTER ONE

Looking-glass House

It was a quiet winter's afternoon and Alice was sitting in a large armchair with a little black kitten on her knees. There was another white kitten on the floor. Its mother was washing it. Alice was feeling tired and her eyes were beginning to close a little. The black kitten was playing with a big ball of **wool**.

"Oh, Kitty! You keep doing terrible things. Look at this ball of wool! It was tidy until you touched it. And this morning you stole your sister's milk, too. Don't tell me that it's not true, Kitty, because I know that it is," Alice said, **pretending** now that the kitten could speak. "What did you say? You were thirsty? But I'm sure that Snowdrop was thirsty, too! You're a bad little kitten!" She pulled the wool away and then she kissed the kitten on the head.

"Kitty, can you play **chess**?" Alice asked the kitten. "No, don't smile! I really want to know, because, when I was playing chess this afternoon, you were watching the game very **carefully**. And I think that you understood it. I have an idea."



Alice loved to pretend. Sometimes, she pretended that she was a queen, or a hungry wild animal.

“Let’s pretend that you’re the Red Queen in a game of chess, Kitty!” she said, and she **picked up** the Red Queen chess **piece** from the table. “Sit up straight and put your arms down by your sides like the Queen,” she told the kitten. But the kitten did not sit up straight. So Alice picked Kitty up and

walked to the fireplace. She held her up in front of the mirror. “Look into the **looking-glass**, Kitty. Do you see that you look very sad? If you don’t smile, I’ll put you through the glass into Looking-glass House. Do you want me to do that, Kitty?”

Alice began to tell Kitty all her ideas about Looking-glass House. “First, there’s the living room. You can see it through the glass,” she explained. “It looks the same as *our* living room, but everything is the other way – everything is **backwards**. And you can see books in the room, too. They are like our books, but the words are the wrong way. I know that because I held up one of our books, and *someone* in the glass held one up for me to see.”

“Would you *like* to live in Looking-glass House, Kitty? Do you think that there is milk there? I’d love to go inside that house! Let’s pretend that the glass is getting all thin and soft, and soon we’ll be able to pass through to the other room. Oh, Kitty! I think that it’s happening!” Alice was climbing up on to the top of the fireplace now. And the glass *was* beginning to change – it was moving a little and it was changing colour.

Alice put her arm through the glass, then a

second later, she jumped lightly down into the Looking-glass room. She turned round to look at the fireplace and she was happy to see that there was a fire in that room, too. But there were many different things in this room. The people in the pictures on the wall were moving, and the clock on the fireplace had the face of an old man on it. And he was smiling at her!



“This room isn’t as tidy as the other one,” thought Alice, when she saw a few chess pieces on the floor near the fireplace. Suddenly, she **noticed** that the pieces were moving.



“Oh! The Red King and the Red Queen are walking together!” Alice said, quietly, because she did not want them to be frightened. “And here are the White King and the White Queen – and there are two castles together. I don’t think that any of them can hear or see me.”

Then Alice heard shouting behind her. She turned and saw one of the small White **Pawns** on the table. The pawn was lying down and kicking.

“It’s my dear Lily! It’s my child!” cried the White Queen, and she ran to the table and began to climb up it. Alice wanted to help, so she picked the Queen up and she put her on the table next to the noisy little pawn. The White Queen was very surprised and a little frightened to get there so quickly. She shouted down to the White King, “Be **careful** when you come up! Something *very* strange suddenly pushed me up here!”

The King looked a little worried, but he started to climb. He was very slow, so Alice decided to pick him up, too. This time, she put the chess piece on the table very slowly.

When Alice put him down, the King looked very frightened and fell flat on his back on the table. But soon he was sitting up and talking very quietly to the Queen.

While the two chess pieces sat and talked together, Alice noticed a book on the table. She opened it and she read the first few lines. “Oh, it’s in a language that I don’t know,” she said.

The lines looked like this.

During-reading questions

CHAPTER ONE

- 1 Who, or what, does Alice talk to?
- 2 How does Alice get to Looking-glass House?
- 3 Why is the poem difficult to read?

CHAPTER TWO

- 1 Who does Alice meet on the hill?
- 2 Alice will be in a game of chess. Which chess piece will she be?
- 3 What will happen to Alice in the eighth square of the game of chess?

CHAPTER THREE

- 1 Which two creatures does Alice speak to under a tree and in the forest?
- 2 Which two words does Alice forget in the forest?

CHAPTER FOUR

- 1 Why does Tweedledum think that Alice started badly?
- 2 Where is the Red King, and what is he doing?
- 3 Why do the two brothers run away?

CHAPTER FIVE

- 1 Why does the White Queen start to cry?
- 2 Why does the White Queen's voice sound strange?

CHAPTER SIX

- 1 Which important person does Humpty Dumpty know?
- 2 Who gave Humpty Dumpty his bow tie?
- 3 What does Alice ask Humpty Dumpty to do for her?

CHAPTER SEVEN

- 1 Who are Haigha and Hatta?
- 2 Why are the Lion and the Unicorn fighting?
- 3 What does Alice have to cut?

CHAPTER EIGHT

- 1 Why does Alice say “So I wasn’t dreaming, then”?
- 2 What inventions does the Knight show Alice?

CHAPTER NINE

- 1 Why is Alice angry?
- 2 Why do the waiters take the meat away from the table?

CHAPTER TEN

- 1 What happens when Alice shakes the Red Queen up and down?
- 2 Alice says, “But who was dreaming the dream? Was it me, or the Red King?” Which was it, do you think?

After-reading questions

- 1 Look at your answer to the “Before-reading question”. Were you right?
- 2 Which character in the story did you like the most? Which character did you like the least? Why?
- 3 In her dream, Alice is part of a big game of chess. Why do you think she dreams about chess?

Exercises

CHAPTER ONE

1 Match the correct words to their definitions in your notebook.

poem pawn chess pretend wool looking-glass

- 1*poem*..... a short piece of writing that often has short lines and sometimes the words sound the same
- 2 comes from a sheep and you use it to make a jumper
- 3 to act like something is true when it is not
- 4 a game for two people that has a board with black and white squares
- 5 a mirror
- 6 a piece used in a game. They are small and they can move in any direction.

CHAPTER TWO

2 Match the two parts of the sentences in your notebook.

Example: 1 – c

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 If I can get to the top of that hill, | a I'll pull you out of the ground! |
| 2 Flowers can't move, | b you can be the White Queen's Pawn. |
| 3 If you don't stop shouting, | c I'll be able to see the garden much better. |
| 4 If I play the game, | d if anything dangerous comes near them. |
| 5 If you like, | e you will become a queen. |
| 6 When you get to the eighth square, | f I can be a pawn, but I really want to be a queen. |