

# Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

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## Chapter 7



*Created by Gay Miller*

## 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 Dormouse 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 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. '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, who seemed to be talking in his sleep, 'that "I breathe when I sleep" is the same thing as "I sleep when I breathe"!'

'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.'

'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.

Alice felt dreadfully puzzled. The Hatter's remark seemed 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 waste 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 won'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, 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 tea spoon at the March Hare,) '—it was at the great concert given by the Queen of Hearts, and I had to sing

*"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,  
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 jumped up and bawled out, "*He's murdering the time! Off with his head!*"'

'How dreadfully savage!' exclaimed Alice.

'And ever since that,' the Hatter went on in a mournful tone, 'he won'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 his eyes. 'I wasn't asleep,' he said in a hoarse, feeble voice: 'I heard every word you fellows were saying.'

'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; 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.

'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 to fancy to herself what such an extraordinary ways 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 can't take more.'

'You mean you can'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! sh!' and the Dormouse sulkily remarked, 'If you can't be civil, you'd better finish the story for yourself.'

'No, please go on!' Alice said very humbly; 'I won't interrupt 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 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"—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—'

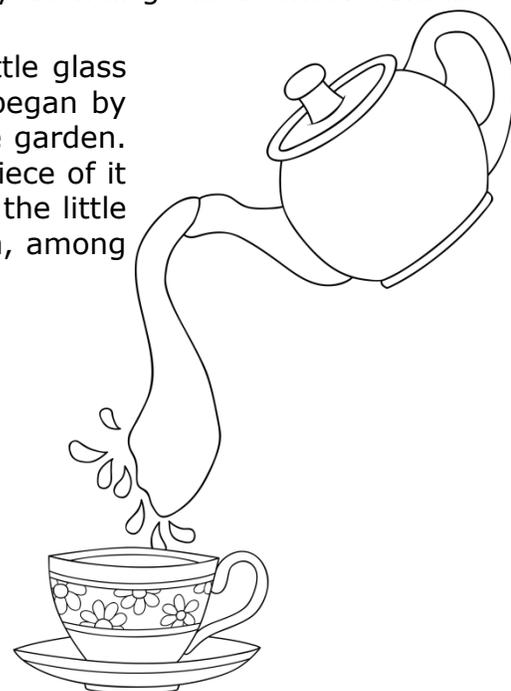
'Then you shouldn't talk,' said the Hatter.

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 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 went 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 flower-beds and the cool fountains.



# Alice's Adventures in Wonderland ~ Chapter 7

<p>1. Which word best describes the tea party?</p> <p>a. ridiculous b. serviceable c. mindful d. practical</p>	<p>2. Select one example from the "word order" quote and explain how changing the order of words, changes the meaning of the sentences.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
<p>3. Read the following passage from Chapter 7.</p> <p>'Well, I'd hardly finished the first verse,' said the Hatter, 'when the Queen jumped up and bawled out, "He's murdering the time! Off with his head!"'</p> <p>What idiom is taken literally in this passage?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>What does the idiom mean?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>4. Which book character is Alice most like at the tea party?</p> <p>a. Max from <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> who goes on an adventure to a forest with wild creatures b. The Very Hungry Caterpillar who eats his way through every page c. Hansel who is trapped by the Witch and placed in a cage to fatten up d. Alexander who has a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day</p>
<p>5. Fill in the blanks.</p> <p>At the tea party, nothing moves forward. There is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no progress in _____ because the discussion does not make sense</li> <li>no progress in the _____ because the members simply move in a circle</li> <li>no progress in _____ because it is always six o'clock</li> <li>no progress in _____ because the riddle has no answer</li> </ul>	<p>6. Sequence the following events by numbering them in the correct order.</p> <p>_____ The Hatter tells Alice that he doesn't need a watch that tells the time because time is always the same for him.</p> <p>_____ Alice sits down at the table where the Hare and Mad Hatter are having tea.</p> <p>_____ The Hatter offends Alice so much she gets up and walks away.</p> <p>_____ The Hatter asks Alice a riddle.</p> <p>_____ The Dormouse tells the story of three sisters who live in a treacle well.</p> <p>_____ Alice discovers a door in a tree that leads to the garden.</p>
<p>7. Explain the double meanings of the following puns used in Chapter 7.</p> <p><b>beat time</b> _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>the girls draw</b> _____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>8. Write a "someone wanted but so" statement to summarize Chapter 7.</p> <p>Someone- character Wanted- goal But- conflict So- resolution</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>

# Alice's Adventures in Wonderland ~ Chapter 7

<p>1. Which word best describes the tea party?</p> <p>a. ridiculous b. serviceable c. mindful d. practical</p>	<p>2. Select one example from the "word order" quote and explain how changing the order of words, changes the meaning of the sentences.</p> <p>Answers will vary. Sample answer. I see what I eat. ~ I look at my food. I eat what I see. ~ I eat everything in sight. This could be nonedible items such as clothes.</p>
<p>3. Read the following passage from Chapter 7.</p> <p>'Well, I'd hardly finished the first verse,' said the Hatter, 'when the Queen jumped up and bawled out, "He's murdering the time! Off with his head!"'</p> <p>What idiom is taken literally in this passage? <b>killing time</b></p> <p>What does the idiom mean? <b>to do something that keeps you busy while you are waiting for something else to happen</b></p>	<p>4. Which book character is Alice most like at the tea party?</p> <p>a. Max from <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> who goes on an adventure to a forest with wild creatures b. The Very Hungry Caterpillar who eats his way through every page c. Hansel who is trapped by the Witch and placed in a cage to fatten up d. <b>Alexander who has a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day</b></p>
<p>5. Fill in the blanks.</p> <p>At the tea party, nothing moves forward. There is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• no progress in <b>conversation</b> because the discussion does not make sense</li><li>• no progress in the <b>tea</b> because the members simply move in a circle</li><li>• no progress in <b>time</b> because it is always six o'clock</li><li>• no progress in <b>riddle-solving</b> because the riddle has no answer</li></ul>	<p>6. Sequence the following events by numbering them in the correct order.</p> <p><u>3</u> The Hatter tells Alice that he doesn't need a watch that tells the time because time is always the same for him.</p> <p><u>1</u> Alice sits down at the table where the Hare and Mad Hatter are having tea.</p> <p><u>5</u> The Hatter offends Alice so much she gets up and walks away.</p> <p><u>2</u> The Hatter asks Alice a riddle.</p> <p><u>4</u> The Dormouse tells the story of three sisters who live in a treacle well.</p> <p><u>6</u> Alice discovers a door in a tree that leads to the garden.</p>
<p>7. Explain the double meanings of the following puns used in Chapter 7.</p> <p><b>beat time</b> (keep rhythm with the music and assault time) <b>the girls draw</b> (draw with a pencil and draw water from a well)</p>	<p>8. Write a "someone wanted but so" statement to summarize Chapter 7.</p> <p>Someone- character Wanted- goal But- conflict So- resolution</p> <p><b>Alice wanted to have a normal tea, but everything that took place was preposterous, so she walked away.</b></p>

# The Star

By Jane Taylor

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,  
How I wonder what you are,  
Up above the world so high,  
Like a diamond in the sky.

When the blazing sun is set,  
And the grass with dew is wet,  
Then you show your little light,  
Twinkle, twinkle, all the night.

Then the traveler in the dark  
Thanks you for your tiny spark,  
He could not see where to go  
If you did not twinkle so.

In the dark blue sky you keep,  
And often through my curtains peep,  
For you never shut your eye  
Till the sun is in the sky.

As your bright and tiny spark  
Lights the traveler in the dark,  
Though I know not what you are,  
Twinkle, twinkle, little star.

Parody

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

# Word Order Quote

"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!'"

# The Riddle

Carroll didn't want the riddle "How are a raven and a writing desk alike?" to have a solution. He felt it was funny to not have an answer. This has been a controversy as his readers wanted an answer. Here are a few solutions people have come up with:

Poe wrote on both. [Edgar Allan Poe was a poet who lived from 1809-1849. One of his most famous poems was "The Raven."]

Both come with inky quills. [Feather pens were commonly used when *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was written.]

Some simply pick a topic that is not shared by either such as neither is made out of aluminum or you can't ride them.

## Constructed Response ~ Acrostic [Summarizing]

Write an acrostic. Each line must tell about some event related to Chapter 7. The first letter of each line must begin with the letter in the box.

T

• \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E

• \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A

• \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

P

• \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A

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\_\_\_\_\_

R

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\_\_\_\_\_

T

• \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Y

• \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2](#) Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.  
[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2](#) Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.  
[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2](#) Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

## Constructed Response ~ Acrostic [Summarizing] (Sample Answer)

Write an acrostic. Each line must tell about some event related to Chapter 7. The first letter of each line must begin with the letter in the box.

T

•Topsy-turvy world unfolds, where wonders never cease,

E

•Eccentric characters, strange events, and peculiar beasts,

A

•A rabbit hole, a curious girl, in a land surreal and grand,

P

•Perplexing puzzles and riddles, she tries to understand,

A

•Adventures galore, each moment a delightful spree,

R

•Running with the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts we see,

T

•Tea parties with March Hare, Cheshire Cat's enigmatic grin,

Y

•Yonder in Wonderland, an enchanting tale we're in!

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.2](#) Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.  
[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.5.2](#) Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.  
[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.6.2](#) Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text distinct from personal opinions or judgments.

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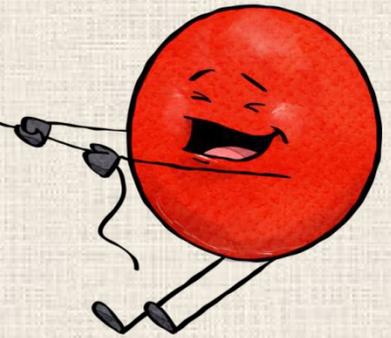
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