



A ♥ ALICE GOES DOWN A RABBIT HOLE •

5 It was a warm day in July and Alice and her sister were sitting on the grass in a field. Alice's sister was reading but Alice was bored*. There was nothing for her to do. She looked around and yawned*. She was hot and she was beginning to feel sleepy. She yawned again.

A ♥ ALICE

Why did Alice feel bored?

Why did she feel sleepy?

What do you usually do when you feel bored and sleepy?

What do you think happens next?



Suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran past her.

'Oh dear! Oh dear! I'm late! Very late!' he was muttering* to himself. He stopped and took a big watch out of his waistcoat* pocket. He looked at it and said, 'Oh dear! Oh dear!' again, and continued running.

'How very curious*!' Alice thought. 'A rabbit in a waistcoat with a pocket watch! I wonder* where he's going.'

She got up and ran after him. He went across the grass to the corner of the field and disappeared down a rabbit hole. Alice followed him down the hole, too.

Glossary

- **bored:** tired and not interested (usually because you have nothing to do)
- **curious:** strange
- **muttering:** speaking quietly to himself
- **rabbit hole:** hole where rabbits live
- **waistcoat:** short jacket with no sleeves
- **wonder:** ask myself
- **yawned:** opened her mouth wide

Down, down, down she fell, into the deep, dark hole. She looked down but she couldn't see the bottom of it. All around her there were a lot of bookshelves and cupboards. There were also some pictures and maps on the walls. She saw some jars on the shelves. She picked one up[•] and read the label.

ORANGE MARMALADE

She opened it but it was empty. 'What a pity[•]!' she thought, and she put it in one of the cupboards as she fell past it. Down, down, down.

'I must be near the centre of the earth now,' she thought. 'That's about four thousand miles down, I think.' (Alice knew this from a geography lesson.)

There was nothing else to do so Alice continued talking to herself. 'Poor Dinah!' (Dinah was her cat.) 'Are you missing me[•]', Dinah? What a pity you aren't here, too! But there aren't any mice for you to catch[•]. Perhaps you could catch a bat. Do cats like bats, I wonder?' She was asking herself this when, suddenly, THUMP! She landed on some leaves at the bottom of the hole.

She could see a long dark passage[•] in front of her and the White Rabbit was at the end of it. She ran after him quickly but he disappeared round a corner. When she got there, she found herself in a big empty room. The White Rabbit wasn't there. She looked around her. There were a lot of doors. She tried to open them but they were all locked.

'How am I going to get out of this room?' she asked herself and she started to feel a bit[•] worried[•].

Glossary

- **a bit:** a little
- **are you missing me?:** (to miss someone/something) are you sad because I am not with you?
- **catch:** get (to eat)
- **passage:** corridor
- **picked one up:** got one in her hands
- **what a pity!:** expression you use when you feel sorry about something
- **worried:** anxious or afraid



Then she saw a small glass table. There was a little golden key on it. She picked it up and put it in all the locks on the doors but it didn't open any of them. She moved a curtain on one of the walls and discovered another door, a very small one. She put the key in the lock. It was exactly the right size! She opened the door and looked through it. At the end of a low passage she saw a beautiful garden. It was full of brightly coloured flowers and fountains.

'Oh, how beautiful!' she said. 'I'd love to go there but I'm too big to get through the door.'

She walked back to the table. There was a bottle on it now.



'I'm sure that bottle wasn't there before,' she said, a little confused.

She put down the key and picked up the bottle. She read the words "DRINK ME" on it. Alice wasn't a stupid girl. She didn't drink it immediately. First she looked at the bottle carefully. There wasn't a label on it that said "POISON"•.

So she put the bottle to her lips• and drank.

'Mmm, it's nice,' she said. It tasted• like cherry tart, pineapple, roast turkey and toast – all the things that she liked to eat – so she drank some more. And some more. Soon the bottle was empty.

A ♥ TASTE

Imagine you are Alice. Complete the sentence and make it true for you.
I put the bottle to my lips.

The drink tasted like a)

b), c) and

d) – all the things that

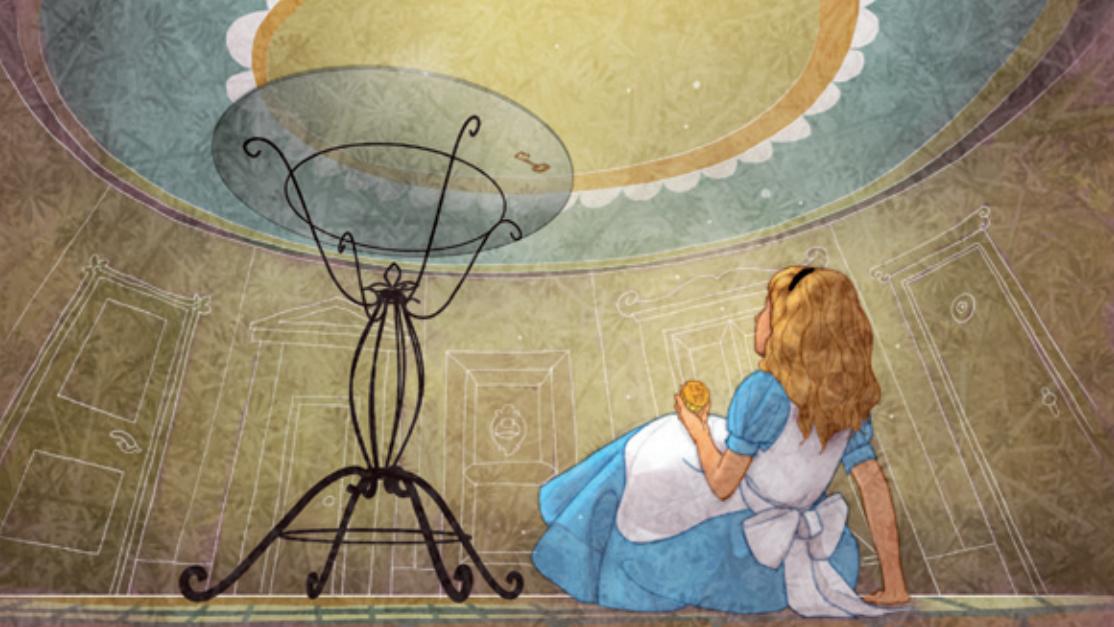
I like to eat.



Glossary

- **lips:** the two external edges of your mouth
- **poison:** it makes you very ill if you eat or drink it

- **tasted:** had flavours when you put food or drink in your mouth



'What a curious feeling,' she said. 'I'm getting smaller and smaller.' It was true! She was now as small as her cat Dinah.

'Good! I can go through the door into garden,' she said. But, poor Alice! When she got to the door, she didn't have the key! It was on the table. She couldn't reach[•] it because she was too small now. She sat down and cried.

After a while she said, 'Alice!' (She often talked to herself.) 'Stop crying! Crying doesn't help! Dry your tears[•] immediately!'

When she looked at the table again, she saw a small glass box under it. She picked it up and opened it. There was a small cake inside. It had the words "EAT ME" on it. She put a small piece of it in her mouth.

'If I grow bigger I can reach the key,' she thought. 'And if I grow smaller I can go under the door.'

But nothing happened so she finished it.

Glossary

reach: touch something with an extended arm

tears: water from the eyes

A ALICE CRIES A POOL[•] OF TEARS

'Curiouser and curiouser!' (It wasn't good English but Alice was surprised and forgot how to speak correctly.)

'Now I'm getting taller and taller,' she said. She looked down at her feet. They seemed very far away[•].

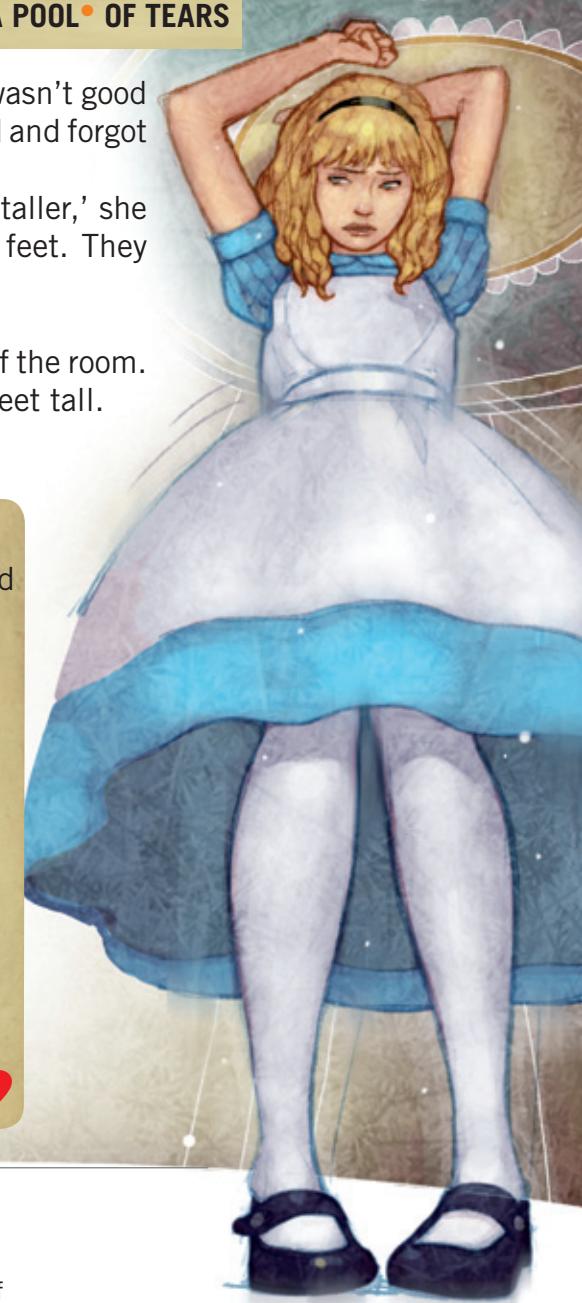
'Goodbye feet! OUCH!'

Alice's head hit the ceiling of the room. She was now more than nine feet tall.

A HEIGHT[•]

1 foot = 30.48 centimetres and
1 inch = 2.54 centimetres

- a) How tall was Alice in metres and centimetres after she ate the cake?
- b) How tall are you in metres and centimetres? In feet and inches?
- c) Are you taller than your friends?
- d) Who is the tallest person you know? How tall is he/she?



- **far away:** the opposite of 'near'
- **height:** how tall you are
- **pool:** small area or small amount of water



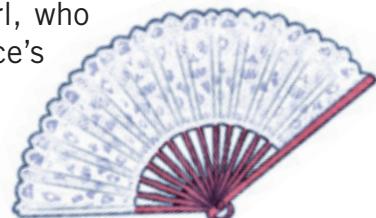
She picked up the key and went back to the door. But she was too big now. She sat down and started to cry again. She cried and cried and cried. Her tears fell on the ground and soon there was a pool of water around her.

PITTER, PATTER, PITTER, PATTER. She looked up. The White Rabbit was running towards her. He had a fan• in one hand and a pair of white gloves in the other. As he ran he muttered, 'Oh, the Duchess! The Duchess. She's going to be very angry.'

Alice whispered• 'Sir – please – , ' but her voice frightened the Rabbit. He dropped• the fan and the gloves and ran away quickly down a dark passage. Alice put the key on the table, picked up the gloves and the fan and started to fan herself.

'How strange everything is today,' she said sadly. 'Yesterday things were normal. Did I change during the night? Am I a different girl today? If I am a different girl, who am I? Am I Mabel?' (Mabel was a girl at Alice's school.)

'No, I can't be! I know a lot of things and she knows – well, only a few• .



How confusing! I wonder if I can remember the multiplication tables• . Let's see – four times five is twelve, and four times six is thirteen, and four times seven is – oh dear! What about geography? London is the capital of Paris, and Paris is the capital of Rome, and Rome – no, that's wrong. Perhaps I am Mabel!

Glossary

- **a few:** not many
- **dropped:** let fall
- **fan:**
- **multiplication tables:** in maths, for example, $2 \times 2 = 4$, $2 \times 3 = 6$, $2 \times 4 = 8 \dots$
- **whispered:** said very quietly

A ♥ SCHOOL SUBJECTS

What school subjects are these? Choose from the list.

art biology history music

- a) The study of singing, instruments, etc.
- b) The study of past events
- c) The science of plants, animals etc.
- d) The study of drawing, painting and sculpture

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♥

She looked down and saw that she was wearing the Rabbit's gloves!

'How did that happen?' she wondered. 'Am I getting smaller?'

She was! She was getting smaller all the time.

'It must be the fan!' she thought, and she dropped it just before she disappeared completely.

'Good! I can go to the garden now,' she said. But when she got to the door, it was locked. And the key was on the table! And she was too small to reach the top of it!

'Oh dear!' she sighed[•]. 'What am I going to do now?'

Suddenly – SPLASH!

She was up to her chin[•] in salty[•] water. At first she thought it was the sea. But it wasn't. She was in a pool of her own tears.

'Why did I cry so much?' she said. 'Now I'm going to drown[•] in my own tears.'

Then she heard a splashing noise not far away from her so she swam closer[•] to have a look. What was it?

Glossary

- **chin:** lower part of the face under your mouth
- **closer:** nearer
- **drown:** go under water and not being able to breathe
- **salty:** containing salt; tasting of salt
- **sighed:** made a sad sound by breathing out





A hippopotamus? A walrus? No! It was only a mouse.
 ‘Silly Alice!’ she said. ‘It looks big because you are small.’
 She swam up to it and said, ‘Excuse me! Can you tell me the way out? But the mouse didn’t reply.

‘Perhaps it’s a French mouse,’ Alice thought, and she spoke to it again. ‘Où est ma chatte?’ (This was the first sentence in her French book at school.) When the mouse heard this, he jumped and his body started to shake.

‘Oh, I’m sorry!’ Alice said. ‘I forgot. You don’t like cats, do you?’

‘No, I don’t,’ the mouse replied.

‘But my cat Dinah is a nice cat,’ Alice continued. ‘She’s very soft and she’s very good at catching mice – oh! I’m sorry!’

The mouse was shaking again, from its head to its tail.

Glossary

- **Où est ma chatte?**: French for ‘Where is my cat?’
- **reply**: answer
- **shake**: make short quick movements with your body



- **tail**:
- **walrus**: large marine animal
- **way out**: exit

‘Let’s talk about something else,’ Alice said quickly. ‘Er, do you like dogs?’

The mouse didn’t answer so Alice continued.

‘There’s a little dog near our house. It belongs to a farmer and it’s very clever. The farmer says it’s a very useful dog because it kills all the rats• and – oh no! You’re angry now.’

The mouse was swimming away noisily.

Alice called softly•, ‘Mouse! Dear, mouse! Please come back! I promise not to talk about cats or dogs.’

The mouse swam back and said, ‘Do you want to know why I don’t like cats or dogs? Would you like to hear my story?’

‘Yes, please,’ Alice said. ‘But let’s get out of the water.’

They swam to the side of the pool and got out. There were a lot of animals and birds in the water now, including a parrot, a baby eagle, a duck and a dodo. They all got out too and followed Alice and the mouse.

A DODOS

The dodo became extinct (it no longer exists) at the end of the 17th century.

Five of these animals and birds are extinct and five are imaginary. Write **E** for extinct and **I** for imaginary next to the names. Use the Internet to find out more about them.

Cave lion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Centaur	<input type="checkbox"/>	Great auk	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gryphon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Irish deer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orc	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tasmanian tiger	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rex	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vampire	<input type="checkbox"/>



- **rats**:
- **softly**: in a low sweet voice

Everybody was wet so the dodo suggested a running race to get dry. It was a strange race. They didn't start together and they stopped when they liked. But after half an hour they were all dry again.

Then the mouse began its story. It was a long one about a dog called Fury and a mouse. Alice couldn't understand it.

'You aren't listening!' the mouse said to her angrily, and walked away.

'I'm sorry. Please come back and finish your story!' Alice called but the mouse just walked faster.

Soon all the other animals and birds left, too. Alice felt sad and lonely and she started to cry again. Then she heard PITTER, PATTER, PITTER, PATTER. The sound of small feet in the distance.

'Perhaps the mouse is coming back,' she thought.



A ALICE GOES TO THE WHITE RABBIT'S HOUSE

It wasn't the mouse. It was the White Rabbit. He was muttering to himself as usual.

'Oh! Where can they be? Where did I lose them?'

Alice guessed that he was looking for his gloves and his fan. She was a kind little girl and she wanted to help the Rabbit so she started looking for them, too. Everything around her was different now. There was no water. There was no room or glass table. There was no little door.

Very soon the Rabbit saw her and shouted[•] angrily in a high voice, 'Mary Ann! What are you doing here? Run home immediately and bring me a pair of gloves and a fan! And be quick!'

'He thinks that I'm his servant[•]', she said to herself but she ran away quickly without stopping to explain the mistake to the Rabbit.

Very soon she saw a little house. She knew it was the Rabbit's house because his name was on the door.

She opened it without knocking[•] and ran up the stairs[•] quickly.



Glossary

- **knocking:** making a noise on a door to say you are arriving
- **shouted:** spoke very loudly

- **servant:** person whose job is to help someone in their house
- **stairs:** steps inside a house



She went into a small room. There was a table near the window and there were gloves and a fan on it. As she picked them up, she saw a bottle next to the looking-glass[•]. There weren't any instructions on it so she opened it and drank.

'Something interesting always happens when I eat or drink something here,' she thought.

And she was right. She started to grow. She grew and grew. Soon her body filled the room. She couldn't stand up. She had to lie[•] on the floor and put one arm out of the window and one foot up the chimney[•].

'What am I going to do now?' she wondered.

A few minutes later she heard the White Rabbit outside.

'Mary Ann! Bring me my gloves now!'

Silence. Then, PITTER PATTER, PITTER PATTER. He was coming up the stairs. Alice was afraid. She forgot that she was much bigger than the Rabbit now. He tried to open the door but he couldn't because she was pushing[•] against it.

He ran back downstairs and outside into the garden.

Alice heard him under the window. She opened her hand to catch him. The next thing she heard was a little scream[•] and a CRASH! of broken glass.

'That's the greenhouse[•],' Alice thought.

Next she heard the Rabbit say, 'Pat! Come here and help me!' (Pat was his gardener).

'Yes, your honour,' Pat replied.

'What's that in the window?'

'An arm, your honour.'

'An arm, you idiot! It's too big for an arm. What's it doing there? Take it away immediately!'

Glossary

- **chimney:** structure that lets smoke out
- **greenhouse:** glass house for plants
- **lie:** be horizontal

- **looking-glass:** mirror
- **pushing:** pressing with her body
- **scream:** shout

