

Alice in Wonderland

This extract comes from Chapter 1. Alice has been falling down a well for a very long time and doesn't seem to be stopping.

The well was either very deep or Alice was falling very slowly. Either way, she had plenty of time to look around and to think about what was going to happen next. First, she looked down to see if she could see the bottom but it was too dark. All Alice could see was blackness. Next, she decided to look at the walls and noticed that they were covered in cupboards and bookshelves. As she continued falling, Alice took a jar of orange marmalade from one of the shelves. Disappointed that the jar was actually empty, Alice put it back inside a different cupboard as she fell past.



"Well," Alice thought to herself, "after a fall this long, I won't even mind falling down the stairs any more! In fact, I don't think I'd even mind falling from the top of a house!"



Down, down, down. Alice continued to fall and she was starting to think that it might never end. As she continued falling, she wondered how many miles she had travelled and whether she would soon reach the middle of the Earth. Then, she wondered whether she would fall straight through the Earth and come out in a different country altogether. "When I land, I shall have to ask whether I am in Australia or New Zealand," Alice decided out loud.

Down, down, down. The fall continued and, as there was nothing else to do, Alice began to talk to herself again. "Dinah will be missing me tonight," she thought. Dinah was the name of her pet cat.

Dinah was a ginger ball of fluff who was probably asleep on Alice's bed. "I hope someone will remember to feed her tonight," she continued.



"Dinah, I wish you were with me right now. There are no mice to catch in the air but we might find you a nice bat during this fall." She paused for a second and then added, "Do cats eat bats?" She liked this question so much that she continued repeating it. "Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats?"

Before long, the question that Alice was asking had become, "Do bats eat cats?" but Alice hadn't noticed because she had started to fall asleep. She was just starting a dream in which she was asking a confused Dinah, "Do cats eat bats?" when there was suddenly a large thump! She had finally landed on a pile of leaves and twigs.

Alice was not hurt and immediately jumped to her feet. Ahead of her was a long passage with a white rabbit running along it. She began to chase the rabbit along the corridor. However, as soon as she turned a corner, the rabbit disappeared. Alice looked around and noticed that she was now in a long, low hall which was lit by many lanterns.



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Activity 1

LO: I can retrieve information from a text.	What I think	My teacher thinks
<i>I can remember to:</i>		
read the questions carefully.	☐	
find the information in the text.	☐	
use words found in the text in your answers.	☐	

1. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they happened.

One has been done for you.

- ☐ Alice lands on a pile of leaves and twigs.
- ☐ Alice misses her cat.
- ☒ 1 Alice starts falling.
- ☐ Alice thinks about falling straight through the Earth.

2. Who is Dinah? Tick one.

- ☐ a jar of marmalade
- ☐ Alice's pet cat
- ☐ Alice's pet bat
- ☐ a white rabbit

3. After finding out that it is empty, what does Alice do with the jar of marmalade? Tick one.

- ☐ She drops it.
- ☐ She puts it in her pocket.
- ☐ She puts it in a cupboard.
- ☐ She offers it to her cat.

4. Draw three lines to match each question to the correct answer.

One has been done for you.

Where does Alice think that she will land?	☐	many lanterns
What is the hall lit with?	☒	ginger
What colour is Dinah?	☐	a white rabbit
What is running along the passage?	☐	Australia or New Zealand

5. Why does Alice get confused and say, "**Do bats eat cats?**"

6. Look at the first paragraph beginning **The well was either...**
Find and copy one word which shows that Alice had wanted the marmalade jar to be full.

7. **Alice was not hurt and immediately jumped to her feet.**
This might be seen as unusual and unexpected. Explain why.

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Activity 2

LO: I can retrieve information from a text.	What I think	My teacher thinks
<i>I can remember to:</i>		
reread the text carefully.	☐	
pick out some feelings words relating to Alice.	☐	
infer what she was feeling from what she said and how she was acting.	☐	

Think about how Alice feels at different points throughout the story.

For each point, write down different feeling that she might be experiencing.

When reading with her sister.

When she saw the rabbit.



When falling down the hole.

When she landed at the bottom.

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Activity 3

LO: I can retrieve information from a text.

What
I
think

My
teacher
thinks

I can remember to:

reread the text.



use the descriptions to help you.



infer information about Alice from what she said and how she was acting.

Create a character profile of Alice. Draw a picture of her and then write about what they look like and how they act using words from the text. There are a couple of examples of character descriptions with the rest of your resources.

Character:

♠ Words and phrases to describe
their appearance:

♦ Words and phrases to describe
their personality:

♣ What does your character do in the story?

♥ How does your character change in the story?



Draw your character here.