

Alice in Wonderland

This extract comes from Chapter 1. Alice has just fallen down a rabbit hole. It has now turned into what looks like a well and Alice appears to be falling for a surprisingly long time.

Either the well was very deep or Alice was falling very slowly. Either way, she had plenty of time to look around and to wonder what was going to happen next. First, she looked down to see if she could see the end but it was too dark to see anything. Next, she decided to look at the walls and noticed they were filled with cupboards, bookshelves, maps and pictures. As she continued down the well, Alice took a jar of orange marmalade from one of the shelves. Excitedly, she removed the lid only to discover that the jar was empty. Disappointed, 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. Would it ever end? As she continued descending, she wondered how many miles she had fallen 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. "I shall have to ask whether I am in Australia or New Zealand," Alice decided out loud, pleased with herself for having an excellent knowledge of geography.



Down, down, down; the fall continued. As there was nothing else to do, Alice began to think out loud again. "Dinah will be missing me tonight," she thought (Dinah was the name of her pet cat: a ginger ball of fluff who was likely to be asleep on Alice's bed without a care in the world). "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 had morphed into, "Do bats eat cats?" but Alice hadn't noticed for she had now become rather tired. She was just falling into a dream in which she was asking a confused Dinah, "Do cats eat bats?" when there was suddenly a large thump. Alice landed upon a pile of sticks and dry leaves. At last, the fall was over.

Alice was not hurt and immediately jumped to her feet. Ahead of her was a long passage and the same white rabbit that she had seen earlier was running along it. Alice began to chase the rabbit along the corridor. Yet, the moment she turned a corner, the rabbit could no longer be seen. Alice looked around and noticed that she was now in a long, low hall which was lit by faintly glowing 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. **As she continued descending, she wondered how many miles she had fallen...**

Tick one word which is closest in meaning to the word descending.

- ☐ climbing
☐ falling
☐ flying
☐ wondering

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

- ☐ Alice asks if bats eat cats.
☐ Alice asks if cats eat bats.
☐ Alice is in a long hall.
☐ Alice is worried about Dinah.

3. List **two** surprising things which happen to Alice in the first paragraph.

1. _____

2. _____

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **Before long...**
Find and copy one word which means **changed**.

5. Fill in the missing words to complete the sentence.

Alice's cat, who is called _____, is likely to be _____.

6. Do you think that this story could be based on real events?
Explain your answer.

7. Based on this extract, what do you think is going to happen next to Alice?
Explain your answer.

8. Summarise the main events from this extract in fewer than 30 words.

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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.