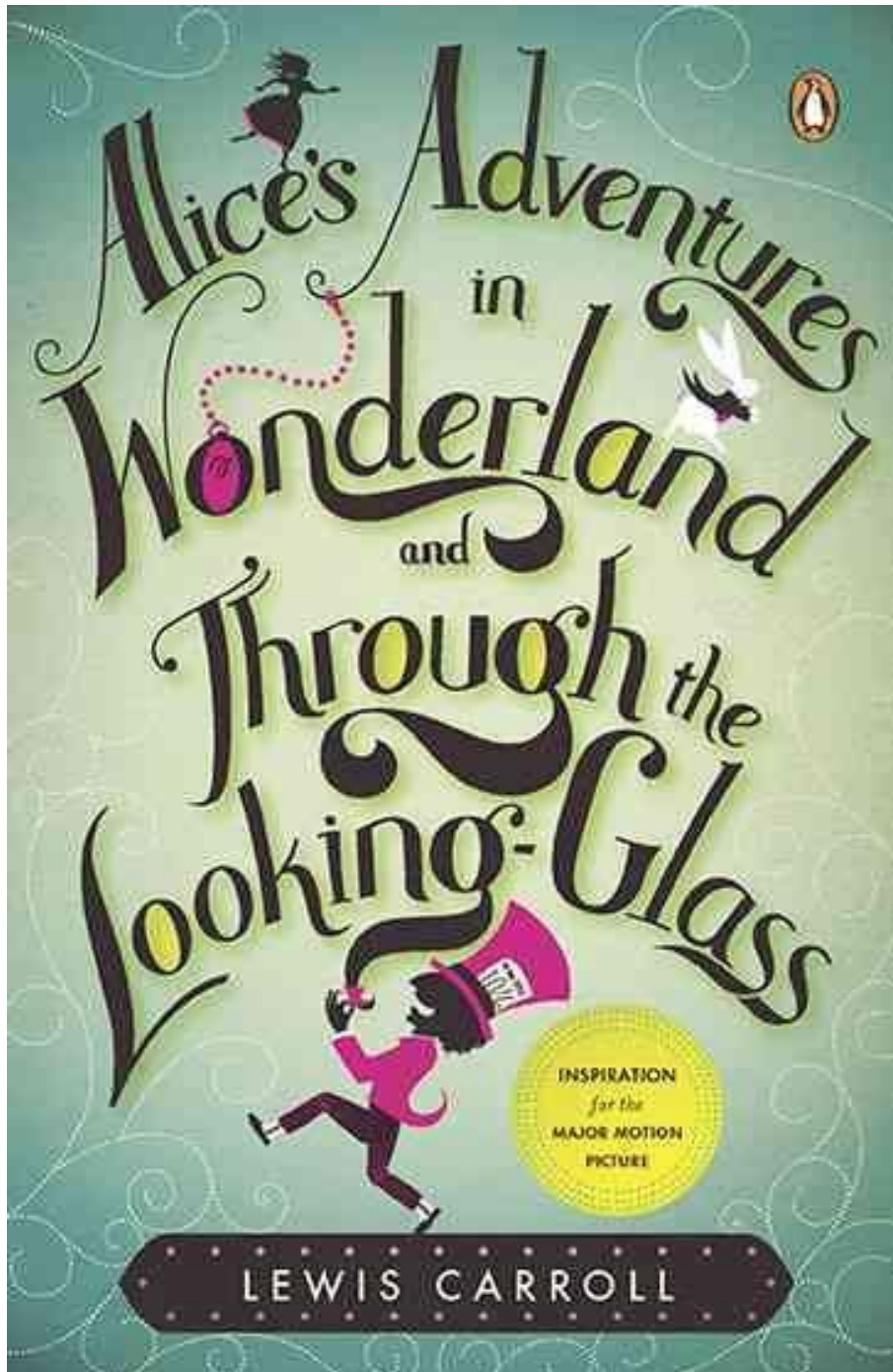


About the book...



Alice begins her adventures when she follows the frantically delayed White Rabbit down a hole into the magical world of Wonderland, where she meets a variety of wonderful creatures. Alice continues her adventures in "Through the Looking-Glass", which is loosely based on a game of chess and includes Carroll's famous poem "Jabberwocky". Throughout her fantastic journeys, Alice retains her reason, humor, and sense of justice. She has become one of the great characters of imaginative literature. These tales of Alice and her adventures in the nonsensical dream world of Wonderland have delighted readers young and old for more than a hundred years.

About the Author...



The Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, better known by the pen name Lewis Carroll, was an English author, mathematician, logician, Anglican clergyman and

photographer.

His most famous writings are *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and its sequel *Through the Looking-Glass*, as well as the poems "The Hunting of the Snark" and "Jabberwocky", all considered to be within the genre of literary nonsense.

Oxford scholar, Church of England Deacon, University Lecturer in Mathematics and Logic, academic author of learned theses, gifted pioneer of portrait photography, colorful writer of imaginative genius and yet a shy and pedantic man, Lewis Carroll stands pre-eminent in the pantheon of inventive literary geniuses. He also has works published under his real name.

For more about the author visit:

<http://www.lewiscarroll.org/>

Writings

- [*The Walrus and the Carpenter*](#), Holt, Rinehart & Winston (New York), 1986.
- [*Jabberwocky*](#), Candlewick Press (Cambridge, MA), 2003.
- [*Lewis Carroll's Games and Puzzles*](#), Dover Publications in Association with the Lewis Carroll Birthplace Trust, Daresbury, Cheshire, England (New York), 1992.

Reviews

Children's Literature Review

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is a story that sets the imagination soaring. Children and adults alike will delight in young Alice's finding herself in a world inhabited by a Cheshire cat that appears and disappears at will, a fretful white rabbit who is constantly running late, and the always angry Queen of Hearts, whose command "Off with their heads!" is never carried through. Alice tries to make sense of the nonsensical world she lands in after falling through a rabbit's hole, but she soon realizes that she's in a place where she doesn't know the rules. Lewis Carroll makes his readers laugh with continual puns and a madcap pace; John Tenniel's illustrations are a visual feast.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is a book to read aloud with children to see their eyes sparkle; a child reading it alone can escape into the never-never land of words.

School Library Journal

A full out absurdist assault at the arbitrary nature of language, Carroll challenges everything about the way we speak and write, from homonyms to idioms. When people talk about children's movies and books being entertaining for both kids and adults, they usually mean that there are jokes that are way over the heads of the child audience that

adults will find funny. The beauty of this novel is that the same exact jokes are equally entertaining to children and adults, often for the same reason, although in some cases adults may understand more clearly why they are funny. It is almost impossible to believe that this novel was written almost 150 years ago, as it remains one of the truly brilliant, and accessible pieces of children's literature.

Discussion Questions

1. Did you enjoy the books? Why or why not?
2. Did anything in the books surprise you?
3. Alice Liddell, the model for Carroll's fairy tale heroine, was a young child when these stories were first told. Although a child in the story, Alice often exhibits mature characteristics; and the adult characters often exhibit childish behavior. Do you consider these books to be an adult's view of childhood, or a child's view of adulthood?
4. If the Caterpillar from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* were to give advice to Tweedledee and Tweedledum from *Through the Looking-Glass* on how to solve their differences without having "a bit of a fight", what might the Caterpillar advise?

5. What role does fantasy and imagination play in our lives?

6. What are the conflicts in *Alice in Wonderland*? What types of conflict (physical, moral, intellectual, or emotional)?

7. Would you recommend these books to a friend?

8. Do you find the characters likable? Are the characters persons you would want to meet?

9. Does the story end the way you expected? How? Why?

Activities

Watch the film, *Alice in Wonderland*.

Make your own Mad Hatter hat and have a “mad” tea party.

Write your own nonsense poem, like “Jabberwocky.” For inspiration, you can try a nonsense word generator like this one:

www.soybomb.com/tricks/words

Read-Alikes

J.M. Barrie, [*Peter Pan*](#) (2011)

On the centennial anniversary of the publication of *Peter and Wendy*, editor, translator, and Harvard professor Maria Tatar presents the novel along with a wealth of information and commentary, including an introduction outlining the story's central themes and symbols, the circumstances of Barrie writing the play *Peter Pan*, and its critical reception. Barrie was a peculiar, but generous man who adopted the five Llewelyn Davies boys when they were orphaned, and bequeathed the copyright for *Peter Pan* to a London children's hospital. Tatar has included illustrations from *Peter and Wendy* by F.D. Bedford, illustrations by Arthur Rackham from *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* (published four years earlier), and photographs of the Llewelyn Davies boys taken by the author himself. In a dedication to the boys, Barrie wrote: "I made Peter by rubbing the five of you violently together, as savages with two sticks produce a flame." Readers of all ages will delight in the adventures of Peter and the Darling children, from Peter leaving his shadow behind in the nursery to the epic battle with Hook and his cohorts. As Tatar notes, Barrie invented a genre in which "adults and children

could together inhabit a zone where all experience the pleasures of a story."

Suzanne Collins, [*Gregor the Overlander*](#) (2003)
Watching his little sister one day while doing the family laundry in the basement of their apartment building, Gregor sees Boots crawl into an air shaft and disappear. He quickly follows her and finds himself falling through the shaft, landing in an underground world filled with huge, talking cockroaches, giant spiders and translucent skinned humans. Wanting to leave as quickly as he arrived, Gregor discovers he's the leader that's been promised to help the Underland inhabitants battle the giant, gnawing rats. He's not totally convinced he needs to stay until he realizes his father, who disappeared three years ago, is held captive by these rats. Together with Boots, who charms all the strange creatures, one large rat and all the cockroaches and spiders, Gregor successfully defeats the rats and frees his father in a robust fantasy by a new author.

Norton Juster, [*The Phantom Tollbooth*](#) (1961)

Milo is chronically bored. Neither words nor numbers can charm him. One day he finds a surprise package in his room labeled, "To Milo, Who Has Plenty of Time." It contains a tollbooth through which Milo passes into the strange lands of Dictionopolis and Digitopolis, lands of words and numbers constantly at war.

Roald Dahl, [*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*](#)
(1964)

Charlie Bucket lives with his parents and four grandparents in abject poverty. Poor Charlie is hungry all the time, a hunger that is made more intense by the constant smell of chocolate in the air from his town's world-famous chocolate factory. When the factory's eccentric owner, Mr. Willy Wonka, runs a contest, Charlie wins a dream come true: a tour of the fantastic factory. Charlie and Grandpa Joe join four ill-behaved children and their parents on a magical tour led by the legendary Willy Wonka himself.

Frances Hodgson Burnett, [*The Secret Garden*](#)
(1911)

When her parents die of cholera, Mary is sent to live with Archibald Craven, an uncle who owns Misselthwaite Manor. The old manor has many secrets and Mary is not allowed in the locked rooms. After hearing crying, she discovers a child, Colin, who has been hidden away. She, Colin and Dickon enter a garden that has been locked for years. Both the garden and the children respond to care and begin to bloom again.

Antoine de Saint-Exupery, [*The Little Prince*](#) (1943)
The Little Prince lives alone on a tiny planet no larger than a house. He possesses three volcanoes and a flower of inordinate pride. It is this pride that ruins the serenity of the Little Prince's world and starts him on his travels which finally bring him to Earth.

Georgia Byng, [*Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism*](#) (2003)

In *Molly Moon's Incredible Book of Hypnotism*, author Georgia Byng tells the story of an orphan who discovers she has a very special magical power. Molly Moon is miserable at Hardwick House, the orphanage where she spends her days. But all of that changes when Molly stumbles upon a book that alters her life forever. The mysterious tome impels Molly to discover her own hidden talent for

hypnotizing people at the drop of a hat! Suddenly, Molly finds herself using her newfound power to her advantage--and her peril.



Ann Arbor District Library