

Alice in Wonderland

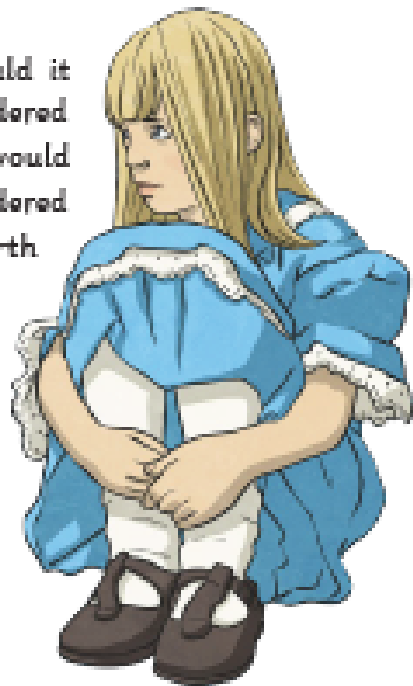
This extract comes from Chapter 1. Alice has just fallen down a rabbit hole. It has now turned into what looks like a well and Alice appears to be falling for a surprisingly long time.

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.

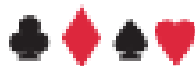


"Dinah, I wish you were with me right now. There are no mice to catch in the air but we might find you a nice bat during this fall." She paused for a second and then added, "Do cats eat bats?" She liked this question so much that she continued repeating it, "Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats? Do cats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



Alice in Wonderland Questions

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.

Alice in Wonderland **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
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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. Accept any two of the following: Alice is falling a long way/slowly; the walls of the well are covered in cupboards/bookshelves/maps/pictures; Alice finds an empty jar of orange marmalade.

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

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

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

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: I do not think that the story could be based on real events because people don't fall really slowly and put orange marmalade back in cupboards at the edge of a well in real life.

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

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Alice will find the rabbit and that she will ask him to help her get back up the well.

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

Pupils' own responses provided that they form an accurate summary in 30 words or fewer, such as: Alice falls very slowly down a long well. She worries about her cat not being fed. Finally, Alice lands on the ground and starts to chase a white rabbit.