

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

About the Production!

The Lewis Carroll literary classic is magically retold through Bright Star Touring Theatre's 2 actor, 45-minute adaptation. Since 1865, this literary classic has been a favorite among young readers and we can't wait to bring it to life. Join Alice on her journey down the rabbit hole and into Wonderland. She instantly finds herself having to make many different and sometimes rather odd choices. Throughout her journey, Alice is learning the continual ups and downs of growing into an adult. This production is packed with some eccentric and fantastical characters who will take your audience on an imaginative ride. Get ready to meet the cruel Queen of Hearts, the grinning Cheshire Cat, the wise Caterpillar, the Mad Hatter and his never-ending tea party



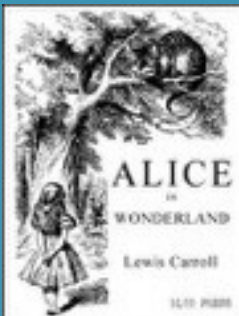
Who is Lewis Carroll?



Born Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-1898) in Cheshire, England, he was a mathematician, photographer, artist and cleric—who wrote his books under the pen name Lewis Carroll. Dodgson was an engaging entertainer, adept at mimicry and great at charades. In 1862 he told good friend, Dean Liddell's, children a story which they encouraged him to write down. In 1864 he presented the family with the unfinished manuscript, *Alice's Adventures Underground*. The children's excitement over the book encouraged him to seek publication for it. In 1865, the book was published as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.



HOW MANY VERSIONS OF THE CLASSIC STORY ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH?



There are over 26 film and television shows based upon this book!

Lewis Carroll wrote two books based upon the series.

In 1903, the first film version of the story was released
In 1951, Disney released their film version.
In 2010, Johnny Depp's version was released

In the Classroom...



It's All A Dream!

Alice entered Wonderland when she fell asleep. Each person enters their own fantasy world while they are asleep and when we are daydreaming! Ask each student to make a "Dream Book." Have students draw an illustration for the cover, then ask them to record a dream, or part of their dream, they remember. They can also record daydreams they've had in which they've done things that they couldn't do in real life.

Read the Real Book! One of the cool things about this production is that it's based on a real life book! Time to head to the library and grab a copy and have your students explore the original text. One idea is that the class is broken into small groups with each section taking a different part of the book. They can explore the chapter and decide what characters, moments and scenes were used in the stage direction? Why were some cut-out? What are the limitations of a stage production versus our imaginations when reading?

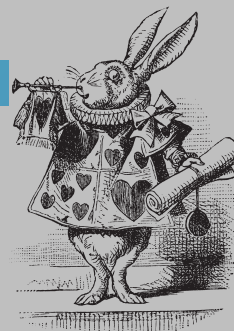


Creative IDEAS!

Creative Activity 1: One thing Lewis Carroll did so well was create this fantastic imaginary worlds. Have your students work as a group or by themselves to imagine their own creative world. What does it look like? What do the people living there do for fun? For Work? Is there a made up language? Can you write a poem dedicated to this new world in this new and made up language? You can take this in all kinds of directions—maybe even having them create dioramas or draw pictures of their world. For older grades this can be a wonderful way for them to imagine setting up their

Creative Activity 2: For younger grades its time to pull out the craft supplies. Pick a character from the play or story. Using items like a paper plate or construction paper, crayons and other supplies can you create a mask to wear as that character? For older grades, there is a chance to sketch costume ideas for their own production of the show. Using their imagination have them design the various costumes, hats, wigs, and masks to make this production come to life—what if they could set the story anywhere! How would that change their designs for the show—maybe it's in outer space? Medieval Times? The Future?

Creative Activity 3: One fun idea is to host a tea party! With a few simple things like table cloths your cafeteria could be transformed into a magical place. In this activity, it offers a great opportunity to teach your young people manners, etiquette and how to conduct themselves in fancy events and dinner parties. This is your chance to be the Mad Hatter for a day!



Did You Know? More Fun Facts about Lewis Carroll!



- Lewis Carroll was not just a writer, he was also a mathematician, photographer, and church deacon.
- He wrote many other books such as "Through the Looking Glass", Academic books, and various poems.
- Lewis started his love of reading at a young age. At the age of 7 he was reading books that were much more advanced than most his classmates.
- Lewis suffered from a stammer in his speech, at age 12 he received special schooling to help him speak clearer.
- He was deaf in one ear, meaning he could not hear.
- He invented lots of games, one of which was a early form of the popular game "Scrabble"!

Elements of a STORY

There are 5 major elements or important parts that go into any good story. They are:

1.CHARACTERS

Characters are the people that the stories are all about or who show up in the story. Who are characters in Alice in Wonderland?

2.SETTING

The setting is any location that a story takes place. What is the setting in Alice in Wonderland? Are there more than one?

3.PLOT

The plot is the actual story in which the whole book is based.

4.CONFLICT

Every story has conflict. Conflict is a problem that needs to be solved by the character(s) in the story. Do you know what the conflict is in this story?

5.RESOLUTION

The resolution is what happens to solve the big problem or conflict. Can you spot the resolution in Alice in Wonderland? ——



Discussion Questions?

- 1.What makes the story of Alice in Wonderland similar to fairy tales?
- 2.What are the things in the production that could really have happened—and which things could never have happened?
- 3.What are the lessons and morals of the story?
- 4.What is nonsense? What parts of the production were nonsense? Why do you think these elements and/or scenes were included in the production?
- 5.What were some of your favorite characters in the production and why? What do you think their purpose was to be in the story? Could the story have worked without them?
- 6.Why is this story still so popular more than 100 years later?
- 7.Would you want to live in a world like the one created in Alice in Wonderland? Why or why not?
- 8.Can you think of a different ending for the

FUN FACTS

The character of Alice was pulled from real life events in Lewis's life. The real Alice was the daughter of Lewis's boss, Henry Liddell, a leader of the church where Lewis taught Math.

Lewis would have never written Alice in Wonderland if it weren't for children always asking him to tell the story. Lewis talked about having to retell the Alice Adventure stories over and over again in his diary. The book started out as a poem for the real Alice as a Christmas gift in 1865. By the time he had published the book, it was twice as long!

Lewis asked the talented John Tenniel to create the artwork for the story. John was famous for drawing political cartoons.

There were many working titles for the book Alice in Wonderland, such as "Alice's Adventure's Underground", "Alice's Hour in Elfland", and "Alice Among the Fairies".

The Dodo Bird in the book was created after Lewis himself. As we know, his real name was Charles Dodgson and his stammer often name him refer to himself has Do-do-dogson.

The book has never been out of print, it has been translated into 176 different languages.

The sequel, Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There, sold out within 7 weeks of it being published.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY! Putting on a PLAY! Break the class into small groups, using this story as a foundation create production of their own that they can present to the class. Some ideas may be: Using a scene but giving it a different ending...Or maybe they could take their favorite characters from the show and put them into entirely new circumstances to create an entirely new scene. This is an opportunity for your students to experience problem-solving, story structure, play writing, acting and presenting the scenes in front of the class and more! For older grades you can have them create plays that are entirely nonsense—yet tell complete stories!

Color Alice!



Alice in Wonderland Word Find

E D A N J L Q G K A N B N M O
 G R S J G R T B F I J Q E L D
 L E L G C H E S H I R E C M Y
 I A J S Q W G W S W O N I K V
 T M N H C K N O T S V E L G L
 E I P E A H I N L T D E A T E
 R N A H R Z D D K E V U J A W
 A G R A R X A E Y A Y Q C D I
 T Y T T O Q E R X H F V L N S
 U X Y T L Z R L K Q F R A Z B
 R Q L E L S J A M X F A S R O
 E B I R D D Y N R S Z B S A O
 I N C C M K I D G X B B I I K
 S E R U T N E V D A Q I C I S
 F G I Q Y H U C W O L T E Y K

How many words can you make out of the word:

WONDERLAND

Rewrite the Ending

Rewrite the ending to the story of Alice in Wonderland. This time, it is not a dream at all. What happens in your version of the story?

Adventures

Alice
 Books
 Carroll
 Cheshire
 Classic
 Dreaming
 Hatter

Lewis

Literature
 Party
 Queen
 Rabbit
 Reading
 Tea
 Wonderland



Write your own review!

Reviews are a way of telling your thoughts about a play, movie or book. Consider the following when you are writing your review:

Who was your favorite character? Can you summarize the play in your own words? If you had written this play, would you have done anything different? Would you recommend this play to a friend? Name one new thing you learned from watching this play!

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

GRADE: _____ SCHOOL: _____



YOU CAN DO THIS TOO!

Where to start: All of our actors started out playing and telling stories when they were young -then they decided to study acting in school. Now they are pros! Here are some ways you can start doing theatre right away!

In School! Does your school have plays or musical performances? This is a great place to start.

In Your Community! Many towns have community theaters or local acting groups. See if you can try out!

Start Something! If your school doesn't have a drama club or a theatre club, talk to your favorite teacher about how you might be able to start one.

At Home! Get together with friends, cousins, brothers and sisters and make your own play. You can make up plays based on your favorite books and stories. Invite family and friends to see your performance.

Try new things and do your best at them! There are lots of jobs in the theatre besides acting. There are people who paint the sets, make costumes, write plays and more. Get the most out of your art, music and English classes. You can use all of these things to be a live theatre pro!



Before, During and After the Play...



BEFORE YOU SEE THE PLAY...

Attending the theatre is very different from watching TV or going to the movies. For one thing, the actors are real people who are performing right then and there. They can see and hear everything that happens in the audience. Because of this, YOU are an important part of the play and its important to do your job as an audience member well. Here are some tips before you see the play.

1. Please be quiet and respectful so everyone else around you can hear what's happening and so the actors can do their job.
- 2.If something is funny, it is okay to laugh!
- 3.The actors may ask you to participate. Don't be afraid to respond, ask a question or volunteer!
- 4.Keep your hands to yourself and your eyes up front.
- 5.If you like the play, be sure to clap at the end.
- 6.Have fun! Enjoy yourself!

Student Reviews

Did your students write a review? Encourage them to draw a picture of their favorite scene or character as well. Feel free to hang them up in your classroom. The students could also take them home and show their parents what they saw and what they learned from it. Or you can always mail your classrooms reviews to us at Bright Star Theatre! We LOVE getting mail and hearing what our amazing audience members thought of their programs. Please find our address on our website: www.brightstartheatre.com



In Ancient Greece, audiences stamped their feet rather than clapping their hands to applaud.



FUN FACTS ABOUT THEATRE!

After a play is over and everyone goes home, there is always a light left on backstage. It's called a ghost light!

The oldest play that is still around was written by an Ancient Greek named Aeschylus. It's almost 2500 years old!

The longest performance on stage ever was over 23 hours long! It happened in New Jersey in 2010.

William Shakespeare is a famous play writer. He wrote 37 plays and is still quoted by many people. There are 157 million google pages that mention him--the most of any famous person ever!

In theatre, it's considered bad luck to tell an actor, "Good luck" before a performance. Instead, you're supposed to say, "Break a leg!"

Everything about the Theatre!



A mini-van is our hip and favored mode of transportation for touring the country!

THEATRE VOCABULARY!

Actor: The people on-stage performing the play.



Backdrop: The background for the play.

Props: Anything that an actor holds while on-stage--a cane, book or rubber chicken.

Downstage: The area closest to the audience a long time ago stage were built at angles.

Upstage: The area away from the audience, like the back wall of the a stage.

Director: The person who told the actors where to go while they were on-stage and helped them create the characters they played.

Facts about us!

1. Did you know we're owned by an Emmy winning actor?

2. Our actors average 1,000 miles a week traveling the country to entertain young audiences.

3. Our programs have been seen in almost every corner of the country and even around the world.

4. We watch over 1200 actors audition before we cast our season.

5. We offer dozens of different shows a season from Black History to anti-bullying and literary classics.

6. We routinely travel to Europe with our performances

7. We can perform in any space.



ABOUT US!

Founded in 2003, Bright Star Theatre tours the nation offering high quality, affordable programs to every imaginable venue. We've had countless engagements at the National Theatre, toured to overseas and are so grateful to be in your very school today!

Costumes: The wigs, clothing and glasses that the actors wore to help flush out their characters.



Auditions: How an actor gets a role is by auditioning. They may have to interview, pretend to be a character from the play or read something from it.

Set Designer: The person who decided what should be on the background and who painted or created it.

The Process of a Play:

1. Actors audition
2. Directors cast the show (that means they choose actors)
3. The directors and actors rehearse the play (that means they practice it).
4. A team of people works on building the set, costumes and props.
5. The play opens (that means it is performed for the first time)!

Were there other terms that came from the experience of seeing the live play that you'd like to learn more about? What do you find interesting about live performances? Which do you like more, films or theatrical performances?

BRIGHT STAR THEATRE

Bright Star Touring Theatre performs across the country from Boston to Burbank and many schools, museums, theaters and community events in between. Each season our shows run the gamut from Black History to anti-bullying, from literary classics to biographical shows. Our shows are available throughout the year for any event in any part of the world.

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Learn more about this show, this company & our whole Season:

www.brightstartheatre.com

We want every show to be special and remarkable for our audience. Please feel free to connect with us at anytime to tell us about your experience:

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