

Alice The Musical

Act One

Overture (Entr'acte could be used as an alternative)

Lewis Carroll

Many a day we rowed together on that quiet stream, the three little maidens, Duckworth and I – and many a fairy tale had been told for their benefit. Yet none of these many tales got written down, they lived and died, like summer midges, each in its golden afternoon, until there came a day when one of my listeners begged that the tale be written out for her ...

ALL IN A GOLDEN AFTERNOON

All

**All in a golden afternoon
Under the skies of cloudless blue,
Leisurely gliding time away,
Heading upstream to find some shade,
Sleepily drifting on our way that dreamy English summer's day**

**All in a golden afternoon
Eager for stories wild and new,
Three little ladies named 'Liddell'
Longed for a fable to be told.
What can a single voice avail against three tongues that beg a tale?
*Tell us a story, tell us a story, tell us a story.***

***All in a golden afternoon
Tales of imagination grew.
Alice the dream-child took our hands
Through many adventures, all unplanned.
Slowly the tales of Wonderland did come to us as now they stand.
Tell us a story, tell us a story, tell us a story.***

Lewis Carroll

(Sitting at writing desk) Full many a year has slipped away that 'golden afternoon', but I can call it up almost as clearly as if it were yesterday – the cloudless blue above, the watery mirror below, the boat drifting idly on its way, the tinkle of the drops that fell from the oars as they waved so sleepily to and fro, and the three eager faces, hungry for news of fairyland. *(Starting to write)* Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank and of having nothing to do. Once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading. ***(The remainder of Lewis Carroll's lines can be read as he 'writes' the story.)***

Alice

What is the use of a book without pictures or conversations in it?

Lewis Carroll

She was considering whether the pleasure of making a daisy chain would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly, a white rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

I'M LATE

White Rabbit

I'm late! I'm late!

I'm getting in a terrible state, I'll have to hurry.

Better get a move on 'cause I'm running out of time.

I'm late! I'm late!

I haven't got a moment to waste, I'm getting worried.

What am I to do? I'm going out of my mind!

I'm late! I'm late!

If the Duchess has a minute to wait she'll have my head off.

Better get a move on 'cause I'm running out of time.

I'm late! I'm late!

If I cannot keep this crucial date there'll be no let off.

What am I to do? I'm going out of my mind! I'M LATE!!

Lewis Carroll

Burning with curiosity, Alice ran across the field after it. Fortunately, she was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge. Alice went down after it, never once considering how in the world she would get out again. The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel and then dipped suddenly down. Alice found herself falling down a very deep well.

DOWN, DOWN, DOWN

All

Chorus Down, down, down – I fell I'm falling through the ground.

Down, down, down – I'm falling, slowly falling down.

Down, down, down – my world is turning all around.

Down, down, down – I'm feeling sleepy feelings now.

Alice

What's going to happen?

It seems I've been falling

For miles unending

And when will it stop?

Chorus

Alice

Falling in darkness

Past cupboards and bookshelves

I'm looking around me

At pictures and maps.

Chorus

Alice

**Where am I going?
I can't get my bearings
I've gone such a distance
Where will I end up?**

Lewis Carroll Down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves and the fall was over. Alice jumped onto her feet in a moment. It was dark overhead and in front was another long passage. The White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying along it.

White Rabbit Oh my ears and whiskers! How late it's getting! *(Exits)*

Alice What an unusual hallway! I do believe I'm in the rabbit's house. Oh, he's left a key. I wonder if it opens one of these doors.

Lewis Carroll Alas! Either the locks were too large, or the key was too small. At any rate, it wouldn't open any of them. Suddenly, Alice came upon a low curtain she had not noticed before and behind it was a little door about fifteen inches high. She knelt down, opened the door and looked along the passage.

Alice The loveliest garden you every saw!

MY LOVELY GARDEN

Alice

**Who can find my lovely garden?
It's the place I'd really like to be.
Safe inside my lovely garden
With the sunlight streaming down on me.**

All

**Chorus Fountains pure and grass so green.
I can hear birds singing in the trees.
I must find my lovely garden,
It's the place I visit in my dreams.
It's the place I visit in my dreams.**

INSTRUMENTAL BACKING UNDER DIALOUGE:

Alice How I wish I could get out of this dark hall and wander about among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains, but I can't even get my head through the doorway. And even if my head would go through, it would be very little use without my shoulders. *(Sighs)* If only I could find a way!

All

**Chorus Fountains pure and grass so green.
I can hear birds singing in the trees.
I must find my lovely garden,
It's the place I visit in my dreams.
It's the place I visit in my dreams.**

Alice I wish I could shut up like a telescope. Perhaps I might find a book of rules that would show me how. (*Walks back to the table*) This little bottle certainly wasn't here before. 'Drink Me!' – I shall look first and see whether it's marked 'poison' or not. Anything marked 'poison' is sure to disagree with you sooner or later if you drink too much of it. This looks OK though. (*Drinks from it*) Mm! Very nice! A mixed sort of flavour – cherry tart, custard, pineapple, roast turkey, toffee and hot buttered toast. (*Drinks some more*) Delicious! What a curious feeling! I must be getting smaller!

Lewis Carroll And so it was indeed. She was now only ten inches high. Alice felt a little nervous about shrinking any further. And after a while, finding nothing more happened, she decided to go to the garden at once. But alas for poor Alice! When she got to the door, she had forgotten the key. And when she went back to the table to get it, she couldn't possibly reach it. Try as she might it was no use. Alice sat down and cried.

Alice There's no use crying like that! I advise you to leave off this minute.

Lewis Carroll Suddenly, she noticed a small cake beside her. The words 'Eat me' were written on it in currents.

Alice Well I shall eat it! If it makes me grow larger, I can reach the key, and if it makes me grow smaller, I can creep under the door. Either way I'll get into the garden. (*Holding her hand on her head*) Which way? (*Eats some more*) Curiouser and curiouser! Now I'm opening out like the tallest telescope that ever was! Goodbye feet!

Lewis Carroll Alice was now more than nine feet high. At once, she took the little golden key and hurried off to the garden door. Lying down on one side it was all she could do to look into the garden with one eye. To try and get through was more hopeless than ever. She sat down and began to cry again.

Alice You ought to be ashamed of yourself – a great girl like you, to go on crying like this. Stop this moment, I tell you!

Lewis Carroll But she went on all the same, shedding gallons of tears until there was a large pool of tears all around her. Suddenly she hears a little pattering of feet in the distance.

White Rabbit Oh! The Duchess, the Duchess! Won't she be savage if I've kept her waiting?

I'M LATE! (Reprise)

White Rabbit

I'm late! I'm late!

If the Duchess has a minute to wait she'll have my head off.

Better get a move on 'cause I'm running out of time.

I'm late! I'm late!

If I cannot keep this crucial date there'll be no let off.

What am I to do? I'm going out of my mind! I'M LATE!!

Alice If you please, sir ...

White Rabbit *(Startled)* I can't stop now. I'll be late! *(Hurries off, dropping gloves and fan)*

Alice *(Picks them up)* Dear, dear. How queer everything is today. *(Fans herself and starts to shrink)* Goodness! I'm shrinking again. It must be the fan. *(Throws it on the floor)* I never was so small as this before, never!

Lewis Carroll As she said these words her foot slipped and in another moment, splash! She was up to her chin in water. At first she thought she'd somehow fallen into the sea, but soon realised that she was in the pool of tears which she had wept when she was nine feet high.

I WISH I HADN'T DRIED SO MUCH

All

Chorus I wish I hadn't cried so much,
I wish I hadn't cried so much.
Now everything has changed and nothing is the same at all.
I wish I hadn't cried so much,
I wish I hadn't cried so much,
When only yesterday my life was not unusual.

Alice

I'm sinking and I'm sighing,
For all my silly crying,
I really wonder why I'm here at all.
I'm shrinking then I'm growing,
I'm coming and I'm going,
I'm tired of never knowing who I am.

Chorus

Alice

This place is topsy-turvy,
It's all a bit un-nerving,
'Cause none of what I've learned is quite the same.
This wonderland I've entered
Is full of such adventures,
But just for now I'd settle for a change.

Chorus

Alice

Look at me, what a sight!
I wish I hadn't cried, I wish I hadn't cried so much.

Lewis Carroll Just then she heard something splashing about in the pool a little way off and she swam nearer to make out what it was. At first, she thought it must be a walrus or a hippopotamus, but then she remembered how small she was

now. She soon made out it was only a mouse that had slipped into the pool like herself.

- Alice O mouse! Do you know the way out of here? I'm very tired of swimming about like this. O mouse! Perhaps it doesn't understand English. Perhaps it's a French mouse. I don't know much French. Let me see. "Ou est ma chatte?" Oh, I do beg your pardon. I quite forgot you didn't like cats.
- Mouse Not like cats! Would you like cats if you were me?
- Alice Well, perhaps not.
- Mouse Nasty, low, vulgar things! Don't let me hear any more about them again!
- Alice Are you – are you fond of – of dogs? *(No reply)* There's such a nice little dog near our house I should like to show you.
- Mouse Cats! Dogs! 'Nice little things?!'
- Alice Oh dear. Now I've offended it again. Mouse, dear, do come back. We won't talk about cats or dogs if you don't like them!
- Mouse *(Turns round and swims slowly back)* Let's swim to shore and then I'll tell you my history. Then you'll understand why it is I hate cats and dogs.
- Lewis Carroll It was high time for them to go. The pool was getting quiet crowded with the birds and animals that had fallen into it. There was a duck and a Dodo, a Lory and several other curious creatures. Alice led the way and the whole party swam to the shore. What a queer-looking party there were, assembled on the bank. The first question of course, was how to get dry
- Mouse Sit down, all of you and listen to me. Ahem! Silence if you please!
- Lory Must we listen to his story again?
- Mouse I'll proceed! The patriotic Archbishop of Canterbury found it advisable ...
- Lory Found what?
- Mouse Found it. Of course you know what 'it' means. He found it advisable to meet William and offer him the crown. *(To Alice)* How are you getting on now my dear?
- Alice I'm as wet as ever. It doesn't seem to dry me at all.
- Dodo In that case, I move that the meeting adjourn for the immediate adoption of more energetic remedies.
- Lory Speak English! I don't know the meaning of half those long words and what's more, I don't believe you do either!

Dodo I was going to say that the best thing to get us dry would be a Caucus race.

Alice What is a Caucus race?

Dodo Why, the best way to explain it is to do it. Here is the racecourse (marks out a sort of circle) – the exact shape doesn't matter. Stand where you like, begin to run when you like, and leave off when you like.

CAUCUS RACE

All

Chorus In the caucus Race you choose a start place
You can then begin and end exactly where you like.
In the Caucus Race you run at your own pace,
You'll be guaranteed to win a prize!

**If your fur and feathers are a sorry sight,
If you're feeling cold and wet.
Come and join the race and you'll get dry,
There's no need to be upset!**

Chorus

**It won't really matter how you play the game,
Make up any rules you like.
If you get it wrong, well that's ok
Don't think anyone will mind.**

Chorus

**PART TWO:
All this busy running gets you dry and it is funny
But it's really quite exhausting going round and round!
(Repeat)**

Chorus and PART TWO

**PART THREE:
Once you've started you've no worries,
There's no reason to be hurried.
Take it easy, stay light-hearted,
In the Caucus Race.**

**PARTS TWO AND THREE
Chorus, WITH PARTS TWO AND THREE**

Dodo The race is over!

All But who has won?

Dodo Everybody's won and all must have prizes.

All But who it to give the prizes?

Dodo Why, she of course! *Pointing at Alice*)

All *(Crowding around Alice) Prizes! Prizes! Alice hands round comfits)*

Mouse She must have a prize herself you know.

Dodo Of course. *(To Alice)* What else have you got in your pocket?

Alice Only a thimble

Dodo Hand it over here. *(Alice hands it to the Dodo)* We beg your acceptance of this elegant thimble. *(All cheer. Alice bows and takes the thimble. She turns to the Mouse)*

Alice You promised to tell me your history you know, and why it is you hate 'C' and 'D'.

Mouse Mine is a long sad tale.

MOUSE'S TALE

Mouse

**Fury said to the mouse that he met in the house,
"Let us both go to law, I will prosecute you.
I will prosecute you!
Come, I'll take no denial,
We must have a trial,
For really this morning I've nothing to do.
I've nothing to do"
Said the mouse to the cur,
"Such a trial, dear sir,
With no jury or judge,
Would be wasting our breath".
"I'll be judge, I'll be Jury"
Said cunning old Fury,
"I'll try the whole cause and condemn you to death!"**

Mouse You are not attending!

Alice I beg your pardon. I thought you had finished.

Mouse I had not.

Alice A knot? Oh, do let me help you undo it.

Mouse I shall do nothing of the sort. You insult me by talking such nonsense!

Alice I didn't mean it. (*Mouse starts to walk away*) Please come back and finish your story.

All Yes, please come back! (*Mouse shakes his head and exits*)

Lory What a pity it wouldn't stay!

Alice I wish I had our Dinah here. She'd soon fetch it back!

Lory And who is Dinah, if I might venture to ask the question?

Alice Dinah's our cat. And she's such a capital one for catching mice. And oh, I wish you could see her after the birds!

Dodo We really must be going. It's getting very late! (*Exit Lory, Dodo and creatures*)

Alice I wish I hadn't mentioned Dinah. My dear Dinah, I wonder if I shall ever see you any more .

White Rabbit The Duchess! The Duchess! Oh my dear paws! Oh, my fur and whiskers! She'll get me executed as sure as ferrets are ferrets! Where can I have dropped them. I wonder? Why, Mary-Ann? What are you doing out here? Run home this moment and fetch me a pair of gloves and a fan! Quick! Now! (*Exits*)

Alice He took me for his housemaid. How surprised he'll be when he finds out who I am. But I better take him his fan and gloves – that is, if I can find them.

Lewis Carroll As she said this, Alice came upon a neat little house, on the door of which was a bright brass plate with the name 'W. RABBITT' engraved upon it. She hurried in without knocking and found her way into a tiny room. Inside was a table and on it a fan and two or three pairs of tiny white kid gloves and a little bottle.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME?

Alice

**I've found another bottle,
It's given me a thought.
I'm sure that something strange will happen
If I can remove the cork.
I'm tired of being little
I'm sick of feeling small.
Perhaps if I should try this drink
I'll end up growing really tall.**

All

**Chorus What will become of me now I wonder?
I can't imagine what I should do.
Is this a magical spell I'm under?**

Things keep happening that hardly seem true.

**Much sooner than expected
It happened as before,
But when she'd drunk a half of it
She wished she'd not begun at all.
Alas! It was too late then,
She grew and grew some more.
In hardly any time she started Feeling so uncomfortable.**

Chorus

Alice

**My head's against the ceiling,
I can't get out the door.
I wish I hadn't drunk so much
I hope I don't grow anymore!
My foot is up the chimney
I'm kneeling on the floor.
My arm is out the window and my
Elbow's stuck against the wall.**

Chorus

Alice

**Things keep happening, strange things happening,
Curious happenings that hardly seem true.**

- Lewis Carroll Alice had grown so large that she was stuck fast inside the rabbit's house. Luckily for Alice the little magic bottle had now had its full effect and she grew no larger.
- Alice It was much pleasanter at home, when one wasn't always growing larger and smaller and being ordered about but mice and rabbits. I do wonder what can have happened to me? I Wonder what will happen next?
- Lewis Carroll And well might she have wondered, for Alice herself could hardly believe what happened next. Firstly, the White Rabbit came to look for his gloves and fan but found he couldn't get it. Bill the Lizard was sent down the chimney to tackle the giant inside. Alice, with once sharp kick, sent him back up like a sky-rocket. Then, the rabbit and his friends showered Alice with a barrow-full of pebbles, which she noticed, with some surprise, were all turning into little cakes! Naturally she tried one of them and was delighted to find that she began shrinking directly. As soon as she was small enough, she ran out of the house and found herself safe in the thick wood.
- Alice The first thing I've got to do id to grow to my right size again; and the second this id to find my way into that lovely garden. I think that will be the best plan.

Lewis Carroll

It sounded an excellent plan – the only difficulty was that she had not the smallest idea how to set about it. Alice looked all round her at the flowers and the blades of grass. There was a large mushroom growing near her, about the same height as herself. She stretched herself up on tiptoe and peeped over the edge of the mushroom. Her eyes immediately met those of large blue caterpillar.

WHO ARE YOU?

All

**“Who are you?” said the caterpillar
In such a lazy mood, he hardly bothered to stir.
Lackadaisical and Laissez-faire
Was the little fella attitude.**

**“Who can say?” Alice had to reply.
“It’s been a strange old day and I keep changing my size.
It’s not easy to explain (I’ve tried),
But I’m really not myself today!”**

Caterpillar

What do you mean by that? Explain yourself!

Alice

I can’t explain myself, I’m afraid sir, because I’m not myself you see.

Caterpillar

I don’t see.

Alice

I’m afraid I can’t put it more clearly, for I can’t understand it myself to begin with; being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing.

Caterpillar

It isn’t!

Alice

Well, perhaps you haven’t found it so yet, but when you have to turn into a chrysalis – you will some day you know, and then after that into a butterfly – I should think you’ll feel it a little queer won’t you?

Caterpillar

Not a bit!

Alice

Well, perhaps your feelings may be different. All I know is it would feel very queer to me.

Caterpillar

You? Who are you?!

**“Come back here!” called the Caterpillar.
(He sounded quite sincere, and so it mattered to her.)
“I’ve got something that you ought to hear
And it’s this ... KEEP YOUR TEMPER!”**

Alice

Is that all?

Caterpillar

No! So you think you’re changed do you?

Alice I'm afraid I am sir. I can't remember things as I used to and I don't keep the same size for ten minutes together.

Caterpillar Repeat 'Father William'.

Alice 'You are old Father William' the young man said,
'And your hair has become very white.
And yet you incessantly stand on your head,
Do you think at your age it is right?'

'In your youth' Father William replied to his son,
'I feared it might injure the brain.
But now that I'm perfectly sure I have none,
Why I do it, again and again.'

**"That's not right!" said the Caterpillar
"If I can be precise, I've never listened to worse.
Not a solitary line or verse
Has the meaning that I thought it might."**

Alice Nothing's right today. One doesn't like changing so often, you know; but I should like to be a little larger, sir, if you wouldn't mind. Three inches is such a wretched height to be.

Caterpillar It's a very good height indeed!

Caterpillar
**I don't know what is wrong with your size.
You shouldn't worry so, you shouldn't criticize.
You'll get used to being inches high,
It's the perfect height and I should know!
Please excuse me now, I have to go! (*Slowly crawls away*)**

Alice How puzzling all these things are. I'm never sure what's going to happen from one minute to another! Anyway, I've got to get into that beautiful garden – how is it to be done I wonder?

Lewis Carroll As she said this, Alice suddenly came upon an open place with a little house in it, about four feet high. For a minute or two she stood looking at the house, wondering what to do next, when a footman in livery came running out of the wood and went to the front door.

PIG AND PEPPER

Fish Footman

**The Queen has invited the Duchess to play,
Along with the others, a game of croquet.**

Frog Footman

**The Duchess will gladly receive from the Queen
An invite to join her for games on the green.**

(Both bow low, curls get entangled. Exit Fish Footman. Frog sits on doorstep)

Frog Footman

**There's no point in knocking, you'll never get in,
Besides, they're all making a terrible din!
I will be here 'til tomorrow, for sure,
Day after day I shall sit by the door.**

Alice

**But Footman, excuse me, before you begin
Please will you tell me how I can get in?**

Frog Footman

How do you know if you'll get in at all?

Alice

There's no use in talking to him, he's a fool!

INSTRUMENTAL

All

**The noise in the kitchen was fearfully loud.
The smoke from the cooking was tick as a cloud.
The cook in the corner was using a scoop
To stir up the pepper she'd put in the soup.
The cat was sat grinning from ear to ear,
The reason it did so was not very clear.
The Duchess was nursing a baby that sneezed,
Howling and screaming it sat on her knees.**

All (Sung)

**Rock-a-bye baby sat on a stool,
Watch out for saucepans, dishes and all.
Beat him and shake him, throw him around.
He'll go to sleep when he hits the ground!!**

INSTRUMENTAL *(Baby lobbing)*

- Alice There's certainly too much pepper in that soup! Please would you tell me why your cat grins like that?
- Duchess It's a Cheshire Cat and that's why. *(To baby)* Pig!
- Alice I didn't know that cats could grin.
- Duchess They all can and most of them do.
- Alice I don't know of any that do.
- Duchess You don't know much and that's a fact. *(Cook starts throwing things at Duchess)*

Alice Please mind what you're doing! Oh, there goes his precious nose!

Duchess If everybody minded their own business, the world would go round a great deal faster than it does.

Alice Which would not be an advantage. You see the earth takes twenty-four hours to turn on its axis.

Duchess Talking of axes, chop off her head!

Alice Twenty-Four hours, I think, or is it twelve?

Duchess Oh, don't bother me! I could never abide figures. Here, you may nurse it for a bit if you like. (*Flings baby at Alice and leaves*)

Lewis Carroll Alice carried the baby out into the open air where it started to grunt. She told it, if it was going to turn into a pig, she'd have nothing more to do with it. It grunted again, so violently that she set the little creature down and felt quite relieved to see it trot away into the wood.

Alice If it had grown up it would have made a dreadfully ugly child, but it makes rather a handsome pig I think.

Lewis Carroll As Alice turned round, she was a little startled to see the Cheshire Cat.

Alice Cheshire Puss! Would you tell me please, which way I ought to go from here?

Cheshire Cat That depends a good deal on where you want to get to.

Alice I don't much care where ...

Cheshire Cat Then it doesn't matter which way you go!

Alice What sort of people live about here?

Cheshire Cat In that direction lives a hatter and in that direction lives a March hare. Visit either you like, they're both mad!

Alice But I don't want to go among mad people!

Cheshire Cat Oh, you can't help that, we're all mad here, I'm mad, you're mad.

Alice How do you know I'm mad?

Cheshire Cat You must be or you wouldn't have come here. Do you play croquet with the Queen today?

Alice I should like it very much, but I haven't been invited yet.

Cheshire Cat You'll see me there. By-the bye, what became of the baby? I nearly forgot to ask.

Alice It turned into a pig.

Cheshire Cat I thought it would!

Lewis Carroll With that, the Cheshire Cat slowly vanished, beginning with the end of the tail and ending with the grin, which remained some time after the rest of it had gone.

Alice Well! I've often seen a cat without a grin, but a grin without a cat! It's the most curious thing I ever saw in all my life.

WONDERLAND

Alice

**White rabbits with strange habits
That run round in a mad panic,
Never having time to turn around.
Log hallways with small doorways
Are there sometimes, but not always,
Curious indeed – the things I've found.**

All

**Chorus Alice, Alice, please understand
 These are the things that happen in a wonderland.
 (Repeat)**

Alice

**Loud sneezing and brain-teasing,
Where words take on a new meaning,
Everyone it seems must disagree.
Rude manners and bad grammar
The Frog Footman, a Mad Hatter!
It's the strangest place I've ever been!**

Chorus

INSTRUMENTAL

Chorus

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

Entr'acte

Lewis Carroll After watching the Cheshire Cat slowly vanish, Alice set off once more. She had not gone much further before she came in sight of the house of the March Hare. She thought it must be the right house because the chimneys were shaped like ears and the roof was thatched with fur. There was a table set out under a tree in front of the house where the March Hare and the Hatter were having tea. A Dormouse was sitting between them, fast asleep.
(Alice approaches table)

Hare & Hatter No room! No room!

Alice There's plenty of room! *(Alice sits down)*

Hare Have some wine.

Alice I don't see any wine.

Hatter There isn't any.

Alice Then it wasn't very civil of you to offer it.

Hare It wasn't very civil of you to sit down without being invited.

Alice I didn't know it was your table.

Hatter Your hair wants cutting.

Alice You should learn not to make personal remarks – it's very rude.

Hatter Why is a raven like a writing desk?

Alice I believe I can guess that.

Hare Do you mean you think that you can find the answer to it?

Alice Exactly so!

Hare Then you should say what you mean, I do. At least I mean what I say. That's the same thing you know.

Hatter Not the same thing a bit! You might just as well say that "I eat what I see" is the same as "I see what I eat".

Hare You might just as well say that "I like what I get" is the same as "I get what I like".

Dormouse You might just as well say that "I breathe when I sleep" is the same as "I sleep when I breathe!"

Hatter It is the same thing with you! (*They sit silent for a minute*) What day of the month is it?

Alice The fourth.

Hatter Two days wrong! I told you butter wouldn't suit the works! (*Looking angrily at the Hare*)

Hare It was the best butter.

Hatter Yes, but some crumbs must have got in as well. You shouldn't have put it in with the bread-knife.

Hare It was the best butter, you know!

Alice What a funny watch! It tells the day of the month and doesn't tell what o'clock it is!

Hatter Why should it? Does your watch tell you what year it is?

Alice Of course not, but that's because it stays the same year for such a long time together.

Hatter Which is just the case with mine.

Alice I don't quite understand you.

Hatter The dormouse is asleep again. (*Pours tea on his nose*)

Dormouse Of course, of course; just what I was going to remark myself.

Hatter Have you guessed the riddle yet?

Alice No – I give up. What's the answer?

Hatter I haven't the slightest idea!

MAD AS A HATTER

Hatter

**Chorus I'm mad as a hatter!
 I've never felt better,
 It's hard to believe that I'm out of my mind,
 But I'm mad as a hatter!
 So pass me the butter,
 'Cause life is a tea-party all of the time!**

All

**He's mad as a hatter!
He's never felt better,
It's hard to believe that he's out of his mind,
But he's mad as a hatter!
So pass him the butter,
'Cause life is a tea-party all of the time!**

Hatter
**Ravens are rather like desks.
Tell me if you think is true.
You won't be able to guess.
I've really not got a**

Dormouse & Hare (or all)
**(A riddle! A riddle!)
(Tell him, do tell him!)
(He'll have to tell you!)**

Chorus He's mad as a hatter ...

Hatter
**It was the middle of March,
I had a quarrel with time.
Now he does nothing I ask,
He was a good friends of**

Chorus He's mad as a hatter ...

Hatter I want a clean cup! Let's all move one place on!

Hatter
**I find it hard to explain,
Thoughts that go round in my head.
Dormouse you're sleeping again!
You'd better go back to**

Dormouse & Hare (or all)
**(A puzzle! A puzzle!)
(No rhyme or reason)
(Yawn. Twinkle twinkle)**

(Hatter stuffs dormouse into teapot)

**Chorus He's mad as a hatter ...
Chorus I'm mad as a hatter ...**

Alice *(As she walks away)* I'll never go there again! It's the stupidest tea party I ever was at in all my life!

Lewis Carroll Just as she said this, Alice noticed that one of the trees had a door leading right into in. Curious indeed – but in she went. She found herself at last in the beautiful garden, among the bright flower-beds and the cool fountains. A large rose-tree stood near the entrance of the garden. The roses growing on it were white, but there were three gardeners there, busily painting them red.

Two Look out now Five! Don't go splashing paint over me like that!

Five I couldn't help it! Seven jogged my elbow!

Seven That's right Five! Always lay the blame on others.

Five You'd better not talk. I heard the Queen say only yesterday you deserve to be beheaded.

Two What for?

Seven That's none of your business, Two!

Five Yes it is his business and I'll tell him – it was for bringing the cook tulip roots instead of onions.

Seven Well, of all the unjust things ... (*They see Alice and bow low*)

Alice Would you tell me why you are painting those roses?

Two (*In a low voice*) Why the fact is, you see Miss, this here ought to have been a red rose-tree but we put a white one in by mistake. If the Queen were to find out we should all have our heads cut off you know. So, you see Miss, we're doing our best before she come, to ...

Five The Queen! The Queen!

ROYAL PROCESSION

FANFARE

All

**Make way! Here comes the royal procession!
They make their entrance two by two.
They'll all be out to make an impression.
Be careful what you say and do.**

FANFARE

All (Clubs, Soldiers)

**This family has a sporting tradition,
We're proven winners through and through.
Our bodies are in tip-top condition,
Our team will wipe the floor with you.**

All (Diamonds, courtiers)

**Our pride is in our social position.
We're first to hear the royal news.
We're in with all the top politicians,
And all the gossip columns too!**

White Rabbit

**I'm late! I'm late – I'm getting in a terrible state, I'll have to hurry!
Better get a move on 'cause I'm running out of time!**

All (Hearts, children)

**Our fathers have a fine reputation,
They're really rather well-to-do.
They've given us the best education,
And all the money we can use!**

All (Guests, Kings & Queens)
**We're here to represent other nations,
From Mexico to Timbuktu!
And we received the Queen's invitations
Before she even thought of you!!**

FANFARE

Knave Make way for the King and Queen of Hearts!

Queen *(To Knave)* Who is this? *(Knave only bows and smiles in reply)* Idiot! What's your name child?

Alice My name is Alice, so please your Majesty.

Queen *(Pointing to gardeners)* And who are these?

Alice How should I know? It's no business of mine.

Queen Off with her head! Off with ...

Alice Nonsense!

King Consider my dear, she is only a child.

Queen *(To knave, re. gardeners)* Turn them over! *(Knave does so)* Get up!
(Gardeners jump up and start bowing) Leave off that! You make me giddy.
What have you been doing here?

Two May it please your Majesty, we were trying to ...

Queen I see. Off with their heads!

Alice *(To Gardeners)* You shan't be beheaded! *(Gardeners exit)*

Queen Are their heads off?

Knave Their heads are gone, if it please your Majesty.

Queen *(To Alice)* Can you play croquet?

Alice Yes!

Queen Come on then! *(Exits)*

White Rabbit It's – it's a very fine day.

Alice Very. Where's the Duchess?

White Rabbit Hush, hush! (*Whispers*) She's under sentence of execution.

Alice What for?

White Rabbit She boxed the Queen's ears. (*Alice begins to laugh*) Oh, hush! The Queen will hear you! You see, she came rather late and the Queen said ...

Queen (*Entering*) Get to your places!

CROQUET SONG

All

**It's such a lovely day for playing croquet,
Show me a better way to spend your time.
Really I have to say that life is OK,
Out on the lawn today, it's just divine!**

**I have been practising with my flamingo.
It's not an easy thing to keep in line.
I am delighted in the way my swing goes,
It needs some polishing, but I'll be fine.**

**Croquet is not so cool when you're a hedgehog!
Using us for a ball, it's so unkind.
If we don't curl up small, they'll knock our heads off!
Since they don't care at all, we'll run and hide!**

**This is an awful game if you're a soldier!
I've never been the same since first I tried.
I can't describe the pain in my left shoulder,
All doubled-up for days – it's such a crime!**

**Whenever you play croquet then your neck is on the line,
We should all be glad just to stay alive!**

Queen Stop! Stop! Stop! (*To audience*) Now, it's about time the rest of you did some singing. You should know the tune by now. Are the words ready yet? Good. Now, woe betide anyone who doesn't join in. Your head will be removed! Executioners, to your places!

**It's such a lovely day for playing croquet,
Show me a better way to spend your time.
Really I have to say that life is ok,
Out on the lawn today, it's just divine!**

REPEAT LAST VERSE

**Whenever you play croquet then your neck is on the line,
We should all be glad just to stay alive!
We should all be glad just to stay alive!**

- Queen (As she exits) Off with her head! Off with her head! And off with his head!
- Alice They're dreadfully fond of beheading people here. The great wonder is that there's any one left alive!
- Cheshire Cat How are your getting on?
- Alice I don't think they play at all fairly and they all quarrel so dreadfully.
- Cheshire Cat How do you like the Queen?
- Alice Not at all! She's so extremely ... (Queen enters) ... likely to win, that it's hardly worth finishing the game.
- King (As he enters) Who are you talking to?
- Alice It's a friend of mine – the Cheshire Cat. Allow me to introduce it.
- King I don't like the look of it at all. However, it may kiss my hand if it likes.
- Cheshire Cat I'd rather not!
- King Don't be impertinent! And don't look at me like that!
- Alice A cat may look at a King.
- King Well, it must be removed. My dear, I wish you would have this cat removed.
- Queen Off with his head! (Cheshire Cat exits)
- King I'll fetch the executioner myself. Hurries off)
- Queen Have you seen the Mock Turtle yet?
- Alice No, I don't even know what a mock turtle is.
- Queen It is the thing mock turtle soup is made from.
- Alice I never saw one, or heard of one.
- Queen Come on then and he shall tell you his history. Gryphon! (Enter Gryphon) Hurry up you lazy thing and take this young lady to see the Mock Turtle. I must go back and see to some executions I have ordered. (Walks off)
- Lewis Carroll Alice was left alone with the Gryphon. She didn't quite like the look of the creature but she thought it would be as safe to go on with him as to go after

the Queen. They hadn't gone far before they saw the Mock Turtle, sitting sad and lonely on the little ledge of rock.

Alice What is his sorrow?

Gryphon *(With West Country dialect)* It's all his fancy, that. He hasn't got no sorrow you know. Come on! This here young lady, she wants for to know your history, she do.

Mock Turtle I'll tell it to her. Sit down, both of you. Once, I was a real turtle. When we were little we went to school in the sea. The master was an old turtle – we used to call him tortoise.

Alice Why did you call him Tortoise, if he wasn't one?

Mock Turtle We called him Tortoise because he taught us! Why, you really are dull.

Gryphon You ought to be ashamed of yourself for asking such a simple question.

Mock Turtle We went to school in the sea. We had the best of educations – in fact, we went to school every day.

Alice I've been to a day-school too.

Mock Turtle With extras?

Alice Yes, we learned French and music.

Mock Turtle And washing?

Alice Certainly not!

Mock Turtle Ah! Then yours wasn't a really good school. At ours, they had French, music and washing – extra! I only took the regular course.

Alice What was that!

Mock Turtle Reeling and writhing, or course, to begin with; and then the different branches of arithmetic – ambition, distraction, uglification and derision.

Alice And how many hours a day did you do lessons?

Mock Turtle Ten hours the first day, nine the next and so on.

Alice What a curious plan.

Gryphon That's the reason they're called lessons, because they lessen from day to day! Anyway, that's enough about lessons, tell her something about the games now.

Mock Turtle Were you ever introduced to a lobster?

Alice I once tasted ... No, never!

Mock Turtle So you can have no idea what a delightful thing a lobster quadrille is?

LOBSTER DANCE

Gryphon and/or Mock Turtle (alternating every verse/two lines)

**If you listen then I'll explain,
You'll see it's a delightful game.
Clear the jellyfish out the way
And then we can begin.**

**Find a lobster and take his hand,
Dance together along the sand.
Change your partners and turn around
Then do it all again.**

**Chorus Seals and turtles and everyone,
 We're all having the best of fun!
 Join the party, we've just begun,
 Come on and do the lobster dance!**

**Hurl your lobster with all your might,
Out to sea where he's out of sight.
Don't you worry – he'll be alright,
He loves to play the game!**

**Turn a somersault in the sea.
(You will find it comes naturally!)
Bring your partner back and we
Can start it all again!**

Chorus

INSTRUMENTAL / PARTY CONGA

Chorus TWICE

Alice Thank you, it's a very interesting dance to watch.

Gryphon Now, recite your poem for her.

Mock Turtle Would you like me to?

Alice Very much indeed.

Mock Turtle "Will you walk a little faster" said a whiting to a snail,
 "There's a porpoise close behind us, and he's treading on my tail.

See how eagerly the lobsters and the turtles all advance!
They are waiting on the shingle – will you come and join the dance?
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, will you join the dance?
Will you, won't you, will you, won't you, won't you join the dance?

Alice Thank you! If I'd been the whiting, I'd have said to the porpoise 'Keep back please, we don't want you with us'.

Mock Turtle They were obliged to have him with them. No wish fish would go anywhere without a porpoise.

Alice Wouldn't it really?

Mock Turtle Of course not! If a fish came to me and told me that he was going on a journey, I should say "With what porpoise?"

Alice Don't you mean 'purpose'?

Mock Turtle I mean what I say.

Gryphon Shall we try another figure of the lobster quadrille, or would you like the Mock Turtle to sing you a song?

Alice Oh, a song please, if the Mock Turtle would be so kind.

Gryphon Hm! No accounting for tastes! Sing her 'Beautiful Soup' will you old fellow?

BEAUTIFUL SOUP

Mock Turtle

**This is a song that I love to recite,
Do sing along if you choose.
I'll sing the chorus so you get it right,
It's not a difficult tune
(Cadenza - Mock Turtle or Gryphon)**

All

**Chorus Beautiful soup! Beautiful soup!
Soup of the evening so green and so pleasing
My beautiful, beautiful soup.
Beautiful soup! Beautiful soup!
Beau -----tiful,
Beautiful, beautiful soup!**

Mock Turtle

**First thing for breakfast or last thing at night,
This is my favourite food.
It can be served any way that you like,
I'll always be in the mood.
(Cadenza - Mock Turtle or Gryphon)**

Chorus

Mock Turtle

**Who cares for chicken or savoury rice,
Vegetable curry or stew?
If I were offered whatever I liked,
Can you not guess what I'd choose?**

Gryphon Gives us a clue!
Mock Turtle Begins with an 's'.
Gryphon *(Ad lib)*

Chorus

Voice Off The trial's beginning!
Gryphon Come on!
Alice What trial is it?
Gryphon Come on! *(Leaves with Alice. Mock Turtle left behind)*
Lewis Carroll Alice and the Gryphon hurried off to the Court Room. Alice had never been in a court of justice before, but she had read about them in books. She was pleased to find that she knew the name of nearly everything there.
Alice That's the judge, because of his great wig. And that's the jury box ... and those twelve creatures, I suppose they are the jurors. What are they doing?
Gryphon They're putting down their names for the fear they should forget them before the end of the trial.
Alice Stupid things! I wish they'd get the trial done and hand round the refreshments!
King Silence in the court! Herald, read the accusation!
White Rabbit *(Trumpet blast. Unrolls scroll and reads)*
The Queen of Hearts, she made some tarts all on a summer's day.
The Knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts and took them quite away!

WHO STOLE THE TARTS?

King

**Who stole the tarts?
Who stole the tarts?
(Repeat)**

Jury

**He did! He did!
'Twas the knave who stole the tarts!**

King & Jury (first time) All (repeat)

Chorus Put him (her) in the prison and lock him (her) up, lock him (her) up,
Put him (her) in the prison and throw away the key!
(Repeat)

White Rabbit Not yet! Not yet! There's a great deal to come before that!

King Call the first witness!

White Rabbit The first witness! (*Mad Hatter*)

King

Take off your hat!

Take off your hat!

Whose hat is it!

Whose hat is it!

Mad Hatter

It's not mine sir!

I'm afraid it isn't mine!

Jury

Stolen?! Stolen?!

He has stolen someone's hat!!

Chorus

Hatter I'd rather finish my tea, sir!

King You may go!

Queen Just take his head off outside. (*Shriek*)

King Call the next witness.

White Rabbit Next witness! (*Cook*)

King Give your evidence.

Cook Shan't!

King

Who baked the tarts?

Who baked the tarts?

What's in the tarts?

What's in the tarts?

Jury

She did! She did!

'Twas the cook who baked the tarts!

Cook

Pepper! Pepper!

I put pepper in the tarts!

Chorus

King Never mind! Call the next witness!

White Rabbit (*Fumbling over list*) Alice!

Alice Here!

King What do you know about this business?

Alice Nothing.

King Nothing whatever?

Alice Nothing whatever.

King That's very important.

White Rabbit Unimportant, you Majesty means.

King Unimportant, of course. (*Under his breath*) Important, unimportant, unimportant, important ...

Queen Oh, do be quiet and get on with it!

King Yes, of course dear.

OFF WITH HER HEAD!

King **Consider your verdict!
Let the Jury consider their verdict!**

Queen **No! No! No!**
Half Jury/Other half **(No! No! No! / No! No! No!)**
Queen **Sentence first and then verdict afterwards!**

Alice **Stuff and nonsense!
The very idea of the sentence first!**

Queen ***Hold your tongue!***

Jury ***Hold your tongue!***

Alice **I won't!**

Queen **Off with her head!**
Half Jury **Off with her head!**
Whole Jury **Off with her head!**

All **Off with her head!
Off with her head!
Off with her head!
(Repeat)**

Off... with her... OFF WITH HER HEAD!!

Alice Who cares for you? You're nothing but a pack of cards!

Lewis Carroll At this, the whole pack rose up into the air and came flying down upon her. She gave a little scream, half of fright and half of anger, and tried to beat

them off. She found herself on the bank with her head in the lap of her sister, who was gently brushing away some dead leaved that had fluttered down from the trees upon her face.

Sister Wake up Alice dear. Why, what a long sleep you've had!

Alice Oh, I've had such a curious dream!

WONDERLAND (Reprise)

Alice

**Fierce ladies with pig babies,
And strange games played in weird places.
How can I describe the things I've seen?
Mad juries, the Queen's fury,
The Mock Turtle, and sad stories.
How can I believe it's just a dream?**

All

Chorus

**Alice, Alice, please understand
These are the things that happen in a wonderland.
(Repeat)**

THE END