

Alice in Wonderland

This extract comes from the beginning of Chapter 2.
In an attempt to reach a small golden key, Alice drank a small bottle of liquid and is now growing upwards at an alarming rate.

"Curiouser and curiouser!" cried Alice, quite surprised that she had somehow forgotten how to speak properly. "Now, I'm opening up like an enormous telescope!" Alice looked down and noticed that her feet were so far away that they were nearly out of sight. "Oh, my poor little feet. I wonder who will put shoes and socks on you now? I know I won't be able to for I am too far away; you must manage yourselves." At this point, a thought reached Alice.

She reasoned that if she were to forget her feet altogether then they may well do the same to her. Worried about the possibility of her feet taking her in the wrong direction, Alice decided that she would send them a present every Christmas in an attempt to win their favour. As she continued planning, she thought to herself how odd the address would look:



Just then, Alice's head banged against the ceiling. She was now more than nine feet tall. At once, she grabbed the little key and hurried over to the locked door. Poor Alice! Although tall enough to get the key, she was now far too large to make it through the unlocked door. As she lay on her side, one eye peering through the seemingly miniscule door, she began to cry.

"You ought to be ashamed of yourself," she said out loud. "A great girl like you to go on crying in this way! Stop this moment, I tell you!" Unsurprisingly, telling herself off had done nothing to halt the flow of tears and there was soon a large pool surrounding her. It was about four inches deep and reached halfway down the hall.



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After some time, Alice heard the pattering of feet in the distance and quickly dried her eyes to see what was coming. It was the white rabbit returning; he was smartly dressed, with a pair of white gloves in one hand and a large fan in the other. He looked to be in a great hurry, muttering to himself as he came closer, "Oh dear! Oh no! Oh, she won't be happy if I've kept her waiting!"

Alice was so desperate for help at this point that she was even willing to ask a talking rabbit for guidance. Therefore, when the rabbit came near, she began in a timid voice, "Please sir, if you wouldn't mind..." The rabbit, shocked to see that he was in the presence of another, dropped the gloves and fan and immediately ran away.

Alice lifted the now sodden fan and gloves from the floor and, as the room was stiflingly hot, she began to fan herself while thinking out loud over the day's events. "Dear, dear. How strange everything has been today. Yesterday, things just went on as usual but now they are all in a muddle. I wonder if I've been changed during the night. Let me think. Was I the same when I woke up this morning? I almost think I can remember feeling a little different. Although, if I'm not the same, the next question is... who in the world am I? That's the great puzzle!" She began thinking of all the children she knew who were the same age as her to see if she could've been changed into any of them.

"I'm sure I'm not Ada," she said, "for her hair grows in such long ringlets and mine isn't doing that at all!" Alice ran one hand through her hair to check before continuing, "I can't be Eva either for she is so small that she would never be able to reach the height I am now!" As she ran through a list of several other names, all producing similar results, Alice had to accept that she was likely now a different person altogether and not an Ada, an Eva or even an Alice.



1. Who tells Alice to stop crying? Tick one.

- her feet
- Alice
- the rabbit
- the key

2. Draw three lines to match each action to the emotion that Alice is feeling at the time. One has been done for you.

Alice thinks her feet will take her in the wrong direction.	puzzled
Alice realises that she is not speaking properly.	worried
Alice decides to ask the rabbit for help.	desperate
Alice wonders who she has turned into.	surprised

3. **Alice lifted the now sodden fan and gloves from the floor...**
Why are the fan and gloves **sodden**?

4. Look at the paragraph beginning **Alice lifted the now sodden...**
Find and copy one word which means **uncomfortable**.

5. Fill in the missing words.

The _____ is carrying some gloves and a _____.

6. Many people believe that Alice is only dreaming when these events are happening. What evidence can you find to support this?

7. Describe Alice's character. Fully explain your answer.

8. Alice's first thought when she begins to grow is that she can't see her feet any more. What would your first thoughts be? Explain your answer.

9. How does Alice's attitude towards growing tall change throughout this text? Explain your answer using evidence from the text.
