

Alice in Wonderland

This extract comes from the beginning of Chapter 2.
In an attempt to reach a small golden key, Alice has consumed 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 and she reasoned that if she were to abandon 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 vowed 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, her head struck against the roof: in fact, she was now more than nine feet high. 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 admonished. "A great girl like you to go on crying in this way. Stop this moment, I tell you!" Unsurprisingly, scolding herself had done nothing to stem the flow of tears and there was soon a large pool surrounding her; it was around four inches deep and reached halfway down the hall.



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

Alice was so desperate by this point that she was willing to ask for help from anyone, whether human or rabbit. 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. As the room was exceedingly hot, she began to fan herself while commenting out loud on 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 have been changed for 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 for she is so small that reaching the heights I am now would be an impossibility!" 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. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order they occurred.

- Alice comes up with a plan to make sure her feet still obey her.
- The rabbit is scared by Alice.
- Alice drinks from a small bottle.
- Alice tells herself off.

2. Why were the gloves and fan **sodden**? Tick one.

- The rabbit was scared.
- They had been dropped in Alice's tears.
- They were both very old.
- They had been stolen from Alice.

3. Look at the paragraph beginning, "**You ought to be ashamed...**"
Find and copy one word which means **stop**.

4. Why does the rabbit drop the fan and gloves?

5. What does Alice mean when she says "**Reaching the heights I am now would be an impossibility!**"

6. Many people believe that the events in this extract are not really happening because Alice is only dreaming. Do you agree? Tick one.

- Yes No

Fully explain your answer using evidence from the text.

7. Compare how Alice is feeling at the beginning of the text with how she is feeling at the end of the text.

8. Alice tells herself off for crying. Do you think this is fair? Tick one.

Yes No

Fully explain your answer.

9. Alice is currently stuck with nobody to help her. What would you suggest she does next to try and get herself out of this situation?

10. Discuss what is unusual about Alice's initial reaction to growing really tall. Fully explain your answer using evidence from the text.
