


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“Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.” - *Albert Einstein*

Reading

Down the Rabbit Hole

Before you read

- Why do people have dreams?
- Find any four other terms that refer to dreaming and explain their meanings.
- What does 'down the rabbit hole' mean?



Now read the following extract from a novel, where Alice, dozing off as her sister reads to her, jumps down the rabbit hole falling for quite a while and landing in a mysterious hall.

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, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, “and what is the use of a book,” thought Alice, “without pictures or conversations?”

So she was considering, in her own mind (as well as she could, for the hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid), 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.

There was nothing so very remarkable in that; nor did Alice think it so very much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself “Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be too late!” (when she thought it over afterwards, it occurred to her that she ought to have wondered at this, but at the time it all seemed quite natural); but, when the Rabbit actually took a watch out of its waistcoat-pocket, and looked at it, and then hurried on, Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and, burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.

In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again.

The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down what seemed to be a very deep well.

Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly, for she had plenty of time as she went down to look about her, and to wonder what was going to happen next. First, she tried to look down and make out what she was coming to, but it was too dark to see anything: then she looked at the sides of the well, and noticed that they were filled with cupboards and book-shelves: here and there she saw maps and pictures hung upon pegs. She took down a jar from one of the shelves as she passed: it was labeled “ORANGE MARMALADE,” but to her great disappointment it was empty: she did not like to drop the jar, for fear of killing somebody underneath, so managed to put it into one of the cupboards as she fell past it.



“Well!” thought Alice to herself. “After such a fall as this, I shall think nothing of tumbling down-stairs! How brave they’ll all think me at home! Why, I wouldn’t say anything about it, even if I fell off the top of the house!” (Which was very likely true.) Down, down, down. Would the fall never come to an end? “I wonder how many miles I’ve fallen by this time?” she said aloud. “I must be getting somewhere near the centre of the earth. Let me see: that would be four thousand miles down, I think.....” (for, you see, Alice had learnt several things of this sort in her lessons in the school-room, and though this was not a very good opportunity for showing off her knowledge, as there was no one to listen to her, still it was good practice to say it over) “...yes, that’s about the right distance but then I wonder what Latitude or Longitude I’ve got to?” (Alice had not the slightest idea what Latitude was, or Longitude either, but she thought they were nice grand words to say.)

Presently she began again. “I wonder if I shall fall right through the earth! How funny it’ll seem to come out among the people that walk with their heads downwards! The antipathies, I think” (she was rather glad there was no one listening, this time, as it didn’t sound at all the right word) “...but I shall have to ask them what the name of the country is, you know. Please, Ma’am, is this New Zealand? Or Australia?” (and she

tried to curtsy as she spoke fancy, curtseying as you're falling through the air! Do you think you could manage it?) "And what an ignorant little girl she'll think me for asking! No, it'll never do to ask: perhaps I shall see it written up somewhere."

Down, down, down. There was nothing else to do, so Alice soon began talking again. "Dinah'll miss me very much to-night, I should think!" (Dinah was the cat.) "I hope they'll remember her saucer of milk at tea-time. Dinah, my dear! I wish you were down here with me! There are no mice in the air, I'm afraid, but you might catch a bat, and that's very like a mouse, you know. But do cats eat bats, I wonder?" And here Alice began to get rather sleepy, and went on saying to herself, in a dreamy sort of way, "Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats?" and sometimes "Do bats eat cats?", for, you see, as she couldn't answer either question, it didn't much matter which way she put it. She felt that she was dozing off, and had just begun to dream that she was walking hand in hand with Dinah, and was saying to her, very earnestly, "Now, Dinah, tell me the truth: did you ever eat a bat?", when suddenly, thump! thump! down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the fall was over.

Alice was not a bit hurt, and she jumped up on to her feet in a moment: she looked up, but it was all dark overhead: before her was another long passage, and the White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying down it. There was not a moment to be lost: away went Alice like the wind, and was just in time to hear it say, as it turned a corner, "Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting!" She was close behind it when she turned the corner, but the Rabbit was no longer to be seen: she found herself in a long, low hall, which was lit up by a row of lamps hanging from the roof.

There were doors all round the hall, but they were all locked; and when Alice had been all the way down one side and up the other, trying every door, she walked sadly down the middle, wondering how she was ever to get out again.

Suddenly she came upon a little three-legged table, all made of solid glass: there was nothing on it but a tiny golden key, and Alice's first idea was that this might belong to one of the doors of the hall; but, alas! Either the locks were too large, or the key was too small, but at any rate it would not open any of them. However, on the second time round, she came upon a low curtain she had not noticed before, and behind it was a little door about fifteen inches high: she tried the little golden key in the lock, and to her great delight it fitted!

Alice opened the door and found that it led into a small passage, not much larger than a rat-hole: she knelt down and looked along the passage into the loveliest garden

you ever saw. How she longed to get out of that dark hall, and wander about among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains, but she could not even get her head through the doorway; “and even if my head would go through,” thought poor Alice, “it would be of very little use without my shoulders. Oh, how I wish I could shut up like a telescope! I think I could, if I only knew how to begin.” For, you see, so many out-of-the-way things had happened lately, that Alice had begun to think that very few things indeed were really impossible.



There seemed to be no use in waiting by the little door, so she went back to the table, half hoping she might find another key on it, or at any rate a book of rules for shutting people up like telescopes: this time she found a little bottle on it (“which certainly was not here before,” said Alice), and tied round the neck of the bottle was a paper label, with the words “DRINK ME” beautifully printed on it in large letters.



It was all very well to say “Drink me,” but the wise little Alice was not going to do that in a hurry. “No, I’ll look first,” she said, “and see whether it’s marked ‘poison’ or not”; for she had read several nice little stories about children who had got burnt, and eaten up by wild beasts, and other unpleasant things, all because they would not remember the simple rules their friends had taught them: such as, that a red-hot poker will burn you if you hold it too long; and that, if you cut your finger very deeply with a knife, it usually bleeds; and she had never forgotten that, if you drink much from a bottle marked “poison,” it is almost certain to disagree with you, sooner or later.

However, this bottle was not marked “poison,” so Alice ventured to taste it, and, finding it very nice (it had, in fact, a sort of mixed flavour of cherry-tart, custard, pine-apple, roast turkey, toffee, and hot buttered toast), she very soon finished it off.

“What a curious feeling!” said Alice. “I must be shutting up like a telescope!”

And so it was indeed: she was now only ten inches high, and her face brightened up at the thought that she was now the right size for going through the little door into that lovely garden. First, however, she waited for a few minutes to see if she was going to shrink any further: she felt a little nervous about this; “for it might end, you know,” said Alice to herself, “in my going out altogether, like a candle. I wonder what I should be like then?” And she tried to fancy what the flame of a candle looks like after the

candle is blown out, for she could not remember ever having seen such a thing.

After a while, finding that nothing more happened, she decided on going into the garden at once; but, alas for poor Alice! when she got to the door, she found she had forgotten the little golden key, and when she went back to the table for it, she found she could not possibly reach it: she could see it quite plainly through the glass, and she tried her best to climb up one of the legs of the table, but it was too slippery; and when she had tired herself out with trying, the poor little thing sat down and cried.

“Come, there’s no use in crying like that!” said Alice to herself rather sharply. “I advise you to leave off this minute!” She generally gave herself very good advice (though she very seldom followed it), and sometimes she scolded herself so severely as to bring tears into her eyes; and once she remembered trying to box her own ears for having cheated herself in a game of croquet she was playing against herself, for this curious child was very fond of pretending to be two people. “But it’s no use now,” thought poor Alice, “to pretend to be two people! Why, there’s hardly enough of me left to make one respectable person!”

Soon her eye fell on a little glass box that was lying under the table: she opened it, and found in it a very small cake, on which the words “EAT ME” were beautifully marked in currants. “Well, I’ll eat it,” said Alice, “and if it makes me grow larger, I can reach the key; and if it makes me grow smaller, I can creep under the door: so either way I’ll get into the garden, and I don’t care which happens!”

She ate a little bit, and said anxiously to herself “Which way? Which way?” holding her hand on the top of her head to feel which way it was growing; and she was quite surprised to find that she remained the same size. To be sure, this is what generally happens when one eats cake; but Alice had got so much into the way of expecting nothing but out-of-the-way things to happen, that it seemed quite dull and stupid for life to go on in the common way. So she set to work, and very soon finished off the cake.

Lewis Carroll

Ways with words

A. Find the meanings of the following words and phrases from a dictionary and make sentences by using them.

peep into	pop down	remarkable	hedge	wonder	tumble
doze	off	earnestly	tiny	creep	

B. Match the words below with their opposites.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| a. beginning | i. happiness |
| b. stupid | ii. calmly |
| c. natural | iii. educated |
| d. disappointment | iv. clever |
| e. ignorant | v. artificial |
| f. anxiously | vi. ending |

C. Pronouncing /s/ and /ʃ/, /s/ and /z/

a. Practise the pronunciation of the following pairs of words.

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| see/she | sip/ship | sort/short | save/shave |
| sock/shock | seat/sheet | so/show | sew/show |
| sit/shit | said/shed | sake/shake | seep/sheep |

b. Pronounce the following minimal pairs of words correctly.

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| price/prize | rice/rise | peace/peas | loose/lose |
| bus/buzz | face/phase | seal/zeal | device/devise |

Comprehension

A. Answer these questions.

- What did Alice do while her sister was reading a book?
- Why did Alice run across the field after the Rabbit?
- Why didn't she like to drop the jar? What did she do with it?
- What idea came to her mind when she saw a tiny golden key?
- What was written on the bottle that she found? Did she follow what it said?
- Alice was fond of pretending to be two people. Who were they?
- Why did she want to eat the cake that she found?

B. Put these sentences in the right order as they happen in the story.

- Alice ate a small cake, which said, 'EAT ME'.
- Alice found a small key and unlocked a very small door.
- Alice fell down a rabbit hole.
- Alice drank something from a bottle and got very small.

- e. Alice tried to climb a table leg to get the key again.
- f. Alice saw a White Rabbit and ran after him.

Critical thinking

- a. "Down the rabbit hole" is a sort of writing called fantasy. On the basis of your reading of the story point out some special elements of this kind of writing?
- b. Is it good to imagine of things which are not possible to achieve in reality? Explain.
- c. Do you talk to yourself when you are in a trouble? If yes, how does it help you?

Writing

- a. Narrate, in short, a folktale that you have read or heard.
- b. Describe a strange dream that you have seen recently.

Grammar

Wish

A. Study the given examples.

I wish I **had** a car.

I wish I **could speak** English fluently.

I wish he **would lend** me some money.

I wish I **lived** closer to my family.

I wish they **wouldn't park** their car in front of my house.

He wishes he **could afford** a holiday.

They wish they **hadn't eaten** so much chocolate.

B. Express your wishes in the following situations in three different ways.

Use *I wish/If only*.....

- a. You don't have a mobile phone (You need one).
- b. You don't know the answer of a question from the lesson.
- c. You can't play the guitar.
- d. It's cold.
- e. You are feeling sick.
- f. You live in a crowded city.
- g. You feel lonely.

C. Rewrite the following sentences making correction if necessary.

- a. I wish my father bought me a bike.
- b. I wish I would write poems.
- c. I wish I could remember her name.
- d. I wish I had a god job.
- e. I wish I would be rich.

Listening

A. Look at the given picture and guess answer to the questions.

- a. What is the man doing in the picture? Do you know him? How?
- b. Where did the incidence shown in the picture take place?



B. Listen to a piece of a historic public speech by Martin Luther King Jr. and answer the questions.

- a. When was the Emancipation Proclamation signed?
- b. How did the slaves feel about the proclamation?
- c. How was the condition of the Negro even after a hundred years?
- d. What three things did the American Constitution promise to its citizens?
- e. What does Dr. King compare the American discriminatory notes given to the black citizens?
- f. What, according to him, is the main purpose of their gathering in the capital of the nation?

C. Listen to the audio again and write 'True' for true statements and 'False' for false ones.

- a. 'A great American' in the speech refers to Abraham Lincoln.
- b. The black slaves couldn't have their freedom even after a century of Emancipation Proclamation.
- c. The blacks were treated like foreigners in their own country.
- d. According to King, American banks were refusing to cash the checks of black citizens.

- e. King does not believe that America lacks the opportunity of justice.

D. Listen to the complete audio of “I have a Dream” and make a list of any three things that Martin Luther King dreams of.

Speaking

Expressing regrets

A. Susan has failed her exams. Now she feels sorry for not studying hard. Study the different ways of her expression of regret.

- a. I wish I had studied hard.
- b. I should have paid attention to the teachers in the class.
- c. If only I had been regular to my classes.
- d. I shouldn't have ignored my parents' advice.
- e. If only I hadn't missed my classes.

B. Express regrets using *I wish/If only* and *should have /had* with past participle based on the following situations.

- a. Your friend has betrayed you.
- b. You have got a cold.
- c. You are lost in a town.
- d. You have lost your phone.
- e. You couldn't attend your brother's wedding.



Project Work

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is a children's novel by English author Lewis Carroll, published in 1865. It is a story of a young girl named Alice falling through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures. With its fantastical tales and riddles, it became one of the most popular works of English-language fiction.

Read the whole novel or a similar novel in a library or in the Internet, and write its short review.