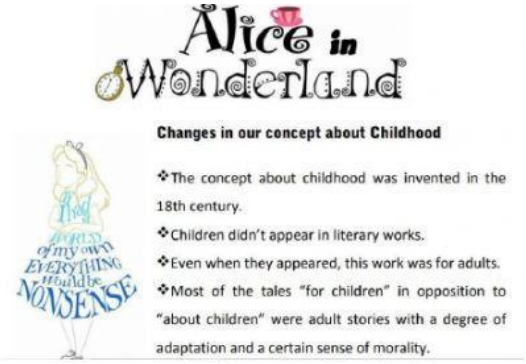
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

A novel written by English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (Victorian mathematician and logician) under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll .



The story deals with many themes

- Curiosity; fantasy; logic;
- subjectivity & reality;
- obstinate good (common) sense;
- life as 'a puzzle';
- pun (play on words)
- Change(both physical and mental/psychological); confusion; hostility; challenge;
- lost childhood/innocence
- growing up (into puberty); maturity; identity; adulthood; self-confidence; acceptance

The book was written in the Victorian Era and referred to many social problems from that historical period

1. READ these extracts from the website and do the multiple choice

➢ EDUCATION'S ROLE IN THE ALICE BOOKS

Education plays a important role in the Alice books, contributing both to Carroll's characterization of Alice and to our perceptions of Victorian England. Throughout the Alice books, Alice refers to her lessons and her education, usually very proud of the learning that she has acquired. It seems, however, that the information that Alice remembers from her lessons is usually either completely useless or wrong. The author uses nonsense and fantasy to criticize the English school system

The information given about education in Victorian times indicates that traditional public schools emphasized Greek and Latin, house systems, school spirit, improving character, and that the goal of education was to mold the student into a young Christian gentleman. This approach can be seen in Alice, since her knowledge seems to consist mainly of maxims and morals about obedience and safety.

Carroll certainly made a conscious decision to make morals and tales of obedience, a large part of Victorian upbringing, nonsensical. This rejection of typical Victorian manners and education of children supports one of the themes in his Alice books, the idea that a child's imagination has value.

A. Alice shows in the story that the information she learns at school is _____

B. In the Victorian Era the traditional school followed the _____model

C. Students were taught to be _____

D. Carrrol criticized the school system and wanted to support the value of children's _____

➢ VICTORIAN HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN ALICE IN WONDERLAND

When Lewis Carroll dreamed up the world of *Alice in Wonderland*, he gave readers one of the most familiar works inviting Victorian society to escape from its troubles. Yet in contrast to his use of the story as a diversion from these problems, Carroll also created Alice and her imagined world as a chance to comment and reflect upon them. For example, Alice continuously looked towards eating to alter her size in this fantasy world. Carroll demonstrated an understandable preoccupation with food in Wonderland as a way of sharing his thoughts on hunger in Victorian society. During the 1830s and 1840s, there was an enormous shortage of food, driving the prices much higher than many could afford. But in Carroll's fantasy world, Alice found something to eat in the form of a gigantic mushroom. Nature, and its ability to provide food, sheds some light on the author's search for possible ways of saving his starving society. He escaped from the starving Victorian world into the imaginative and childlike world of Alice.

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E. Caroll's main goal in his stories was to help people escape from _____

F. However he also showed he was worried about the _____during the early Victorian Era

G. He tried to show that _____ can provide food when Alice was eating the mushrooms.

2. READ these extracts complete with the correct words.

➢ PREJUDICE AND PERCEPTION IN ALICE IN WONDERLAND

prejudices - cruel – lower – royalty - authority

In Lewis Carroll's presentation of reality from the point of view of a child's hyperbolic fantasy, adults are _____, childlike, irresponsible, impulsive, and self-indulgent — the exact five adjectives that Victorians attributed to the Blacks and to the _____classes. Carroll comically manipulates these prejudices and shows through Alice's eyes how these characteristics also apply to adults, authority figures, and even _____. *Alice in Wonderland*, at once views the adult world on a child's level, questions the_____ of adults and of royalty and mocks_____ commonly held of its day.

➢ ALICE AND THE VICTORIAN MANNERS

gentlemen - bossy - society- creatures - manners

Throughout *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Alice interacts with _____ and objects that normally inhabit her Victorian world. The natives of Wonderland, who all have distinct personalities and the capacity to speak, dictate Alice's behavior. In this final scene, however, Alice turns the table on the_____ inhabitants of Wonderland. Rather than continuing to accept their behavior, she recognizes that they do not behave as they should in Victorian _____. Thus referring to the strict table_____ imposed at the moment in children education

➢ Opium as A Possible Influence Upon The Alice Books

mortality - use – smoking – experiences- harmfulness

The widespread _____ of opium during the Victorian period may have influenced or been reflected in *Alice's Adventures In Wonderland.* Mind altering _____ resulting from narcotics relate nicely to some of the detailed descriptions in the Alice books, such as the growing and shrinking and the image of the caterpillar _____ the hookah. The idea of eating a mushroom or drinking from a bottle that causes one to feel altered in some way parallels drug experience as well. In Carroll's time five out of six families used opium habitually. Infant _____ was an extremely common result of use of the narcotic. Perhaps Carroll, who loved children, argued its _____ to children.

3. MATCH the four interesting elements found in ALICE with the pictures.

A child can grow or shrink, usually as a result of drinking or eating something, just as children are told to do.

The time on the clock means nothing, what reflects the regimented world of adults with their regulations and senseless schemes through a child's perspective.

The characters are often rude, aggressive or frustrated, such as adults can be. Power and perversity prevail over justice, reflecting the arbitrary nature of power exercised by adults on children.

The animals have human characteristics, sometimes they are exaggerated or distorted, but always functioning as substitutes for adults.