

READING

Lewis Carrol

Lewis Carrol is one of the most famous writers for children of all time. He is the author of the children's classics *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*.

Lewis Carrol was born on January 27, 1832 in Daresbury, Cheshire, England. His real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. He was the oldest boy in a family of eleven children (seven girls and four boys). As a child, he excelled in mathematics and won many academic prizes. He also created games for himself and his brothers and sisters.

Lewis Carrol studied at Richmond School (1844–45) and Rugby School (1846–1850). In 1850, he started studying at Christ Church, Oxford. After finishing his studies, he became a teacher of mathematics at Oxford. Apart from teaching mathematics, he also took photos and wrote essays and poems.

Lewis Carrol loved children. He became friends with the children of Henry George Liddell, Alice and her sisters Lorina and Edith. The three little girls and their governess Miss Prickett visited the young mathematics teacher in his college rooms. They spent many hours with Carrol, sitting on his couch while he told them fantastic stories about dream worlds. He also drew illustrations for these stories.

During an afternoon picnic in 1864, Dodgson told the Liddell children a story of *Alice's Adventures Underground*. Alice liked it very much and when they returned home, she asked him to write it down for her. He fulfilled the small girl's wish and wrote the story down. He illustrated it with his own drawings and gave it to Alice.

One day, the story fell into the hands of the novelist Henry Kingsley. He read it and told Carrol that he should publish it. The book was published as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* in 1865. It became very successful. Carrol wrote some more stories and in 1871 published *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There*.

Lewis Carrol died on January 14, 1898. By the time of his death, *Alice* had become the most popular children's book in England, and by 1932 it was one of the most popular children's books in the world.

1 Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 How many brothers and sisters did Lewis Carrol have? _____
- 2 What did Lewis Carrol teach at Oxford? _____
- 3 What other things did he do? _____
- 4 What did Carrol do when Alice Liddell and her sisters visited him? _____
- 5 Who told Lewis Carrol that he should publish his stories about Alice? _____
- 6 What is the name of the second book about Alice? _____
- 7 When did Lewis Carrol die? _____

2 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Lewis Carrol was the oldest son of his parents. _____
- 2 Lewis Carrol was good at mathematics when he was a child. _____
- 3 Lewis Carrol studied at Richmond, Rugby and Cambridge. _____
- 4 Lewis Carrol illustrated some of the stories that he told Alice. _____
- 5 The Liddell children visited Lewis Carrol without any adult. _____
- 6 Lewis Carrol invented the stories about Alice during a picnic. _____
- 7 In 1865, Lewis Carrol published a book called *Alice's Adventures Underground*. _____