

Lewis Carroll - ALICE IN WONDERLAND

The novel *Alice in Wonderland* written by English author Lewis Carroll became the most popular children fiction in 19th century. It tells of a girl named Alice and her adventures in a fantasy world *Wonderland*. It is considered to be one of the best examples of the literary nonsense genre.

I decided to read Lewis Carroll's novel, because I wanted to compare the film with the book version. I had high expectations of reading, because I had seen the film before and I liked it. Actually the film made a bigger impression on me. In my view the book was a mixture of psychology and complicated humour. Although it is nonsense as a genre, I wasn't able to believe Alice to be in Wonderland for first time. She was too big-headed and spontaneous as much as I stopped to regret her. At the beginning she seemed to be cute and innocent girl, but at the end she became strong and independent. The longer I was reading, the more Alice was annoying for me.

Alice sitting bored on the bank with her sister notices a talking and clothed rabbit. She decides to follow him, until she falls through the rabbit hole. She finds herself somewhere in a long, law hall with many doors all-round. Suddenly her eye falls upon a little door behind the curtain. It leads into a small passage, at the other end of which is the lovely garden.

She tries to get there, but she is too big. This time she notices the bottle with a paper label with words: DRINK ME. It isn't any poison; it makes her only ten inches high. But she forgets the key on the top of the table. At this curious moment her eyes fall on a little box with cake and paper label with words: EAT ME. It makes her grow larger. Although she has a key, she is again pretty big to go through the door. She begins to cry.

During her adventures she meets anthropomorphic creatures like rabbits, mice or birds. They speak and they are pleasant. Tweedledum and Tweedledee are loopy brothers who prefer fight-days and fight together. Alice helps them to wear a helmet (it is really only a saucepan). Tweedledee has a sword; Tweedledum has an umbrella as a sword.

Then Alice gets an advice from the Caterpillar. She is supposed to eat from two sides of mushroom. One side makes her bigger, the second one smaller. She nibbles mushroom till she becomes only nine inches high.

In the House of Duchess she finds out she doesn't like this world at all. The behaviour of home-born creatures is strange, crabby and rude. The Duchess is looking after the child irresponsibly – the child is crying and screaming, and then it changes into a pig and runs away. The Cheshire Cat is grinning only and it is considered to be one of the strangest things Alice has seen before.

Alice travels to the March Hare's house to find the March Hare and the Mad Hatter having tea together. Both are impolite and it is obvious she is unwelcomed, uninvited guest. She leaves them and journeys through the forest.

Suddenly she finds herself at last in a beautiful garden. She joins the Queen in a strange game of croquet. They are playing with live animals – flamingos and hedgehogs. The Queen is nervous and tetchy and always calls for the other player's executions. The Duchess is supposed to be beheaded too, but Alice saves her. The Duchess thanks her. Alice is glad to find her in such a pleasant temper.

Then Alice goes back into the wood and follows a pretty path. In a few minutes, she is standing on the hill bordered with daisies, willow-trees, tiger-lilies or roses. She talks to them. Unfortunately the Queen crosses her path and asks for Alice's being in the garden. Both come soon to the court. The Knave of Hearts stands trial for stealing the Queen's tarts. Alice is witness and protests the King's interpretation. The Queen becomes furious with Alice and orders her beheading, but Alice grows to a huge size and knocks over the Queen's army of playing cards.

Reader finds out at the end that it is Alice's dream only. It was also thing that made me angry...