Alice in Wonderland

Cast Of Characters

Alice	Bill	Dormouse
Maggie	Caterpillar	Two/Knave
White Rabbit	Fish	Five
Mouse	Frog	Seven
Dodo	Duchess	Queen
Lory	Cat	King
Eagle	Hatter	Gryphon
Pat	Hare	Turtle

ALICE What are you reading, Maggie?

MAGGIE It's a book on history. You wouldn't like it. You're too little.

ALICE Where are the pictures? And people talking?

MAGGIE There aren't any! Now leave me alone!

ALICE What's the point of a book without pictures or conversation?

RABBIT Oh dear! Oh dear! I'll be late!

ALICE Why does that Rabbit keep looking at a clock in his pocket? Why does that Rabbit have a pocket?! I should follow him to see what he's late for. *WHOOOOOOAHHHH!!! Wow. This rabbit hole is deep. When will I stop falling? After this, falling down the stairs won't be a big deal. I wonder how many miles I've fallen? Maybe I'll fall all the way to Australia. Or maybe New Zealand. I'll have to ask somebody when I get there. No, that would sound weird. Maybe there will be a sign...OOOOF!!

RABBIT Oh, my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting! Oh! the Duchess, the Duchess! Oh! won't she be savage if I've kept her waiting!

ALICE I wonder which door he went through? Huh. They're all locked. Oh, look, a little bottle on a table. It says "drink me." Well, it's not marked poison, so I guess I'll try it. Oh no, I'm shrinking!

MOUSE How doth the little crocodile improve his shining tail, and pour the waters of the Nile on every golden scale! How cheerfully he seems to grin, how neatly

spread his claws. And welcome little fishes in with gently smiling jaws!

ALICE Mr. Mouse, do you know the way out of this pool? I am very tired of swimming around in here, Mr. Mouse! Maybe it doesn't understand English. Maybe it's a French mouse. Ou est ma chatte?

MOUSE AHHHHH! Cat, where's a cat?!? AHHHHH

ALICE Oh, I'm sorry. I forgot you don't like cats.

MOUSE Don't like cats!' Would YOU like cats if you were me?

ALICE Well, probably not, but don't be angry about it.

MOUSE Our family always HATED cats: nasty, low, vulgar things! Don't let me hear the name again!

ALICE Mouse, come back! I won't talk about cats or dogs either, if you don't like them!

MOUSE Let's get to the shore, and then I'll tell you my history, and you'll understand why it is I hate cats and dogs.

DODO I'm wet!

LORY Soaking wet!

EAGLE We must get dry!

MOUSE Sit down, all of you, and listen to me! I'll soon make you dry enough! Ahem! Are you all ready? This is the driest thing I know. Silence all round, if you please! "William the Conqueror, whose cause was favored by the pope, was soon submitted to by the English, who wanted leaders, and had been of late much accustomed to usurpation and conquest. Edwin and Morcar, the earls of Mercia and Northumbria--"'

LORY Ugh!

MOUSE I beg your pardon! Did you speak?

LORY Not I!

MOUSE I thought you did. I proceed. "Edwin and Morcar, the earls of Mercia and Northumbria, declared for him: and even Stigand, the patriotic archbishop of Canterbury, found it advisable--"'

DODO Found WHAT?

MOUSE Found IT. Of course, you know what "it" means.

DODO I know what "it" means well enough, when I find a thing. It's generally a frog or a worm. The question is, what did the archbishop find?

MOUSE …found it advisable to go with Edgar to meet William and offer him the crown. William's conduct at first was moderate. But the insolence of his Normans--" How are you getting on now?

ALICE As wet as ever. It doesn't seem to dry me at all.

DODO In that case, I move that the meeting adjourn, for the immediate adoption of more energetic remedies.

LORY Speak English! I don't know the meaning of half those long words, and, what's more, I don't believe you do either!

DODO I am older than you, and must know better. The best thing to get us dry would be a Caucus-race.

ALICE What IS a Caucus-race?

DODO Why, the best way to explain it is to do it.

ALICE But, we're just running around in circles!

DODO The race is over!

LORY But who won?

DODO EVERYBODY has won, and all must have prizes.

LORY But who has the prizes?

DODO Why, SHE does, of course.

ALL **Prizes! Prizes!**

ALICE Ummm...I've got some candy. Here.

MOUSE But you must have a prize for yourself, you know.

DODO Of course. What else have you got in your pocket?

ALICE A button.

DODO Hand it over here. We beg your acceptance of this elegant button.

ALL *(Cheer)*

ALICE Mr. Mouse, you promised to tell me your history, you know, and why you hate--C and D.

MOUSE Mine is a long and a sad tale!

ALICE Yes, you do have a long tail. But why do you call it sad?

MOUSE Fury said to a mouse, that he met in the house, "Let us both go to law: I will prosecute YOU. --Come, I'll take no denial; We must have a trial: For really

this morning I've nothing to do." Said the mouse to the cur, "Such a trial, dear Sir, with no jury or judge, would be wasting our breath." "I'll be judge, I'll be jury," Said cunning old Fury: "I'll try the whole cause, and condemn you to death."' You're not paying attention! What are you thinking about?

ALICE I'm sorry. I think you got to the third turn.

MOUSE The third turn in what?

ALICE Your tail.

MOUSE I had NOT!

ALICE A knot! In your tail? I can help you undo it. It's like my shoelaces...

MOUSE You're not touching my tail! You insult me by talking such nonsense!

ALICE I didn't mean it! But you're so easily offended, you know!

MOUSE GRRRRR....

ALICE Please come back and finish your story!

LORY What a pity he wouldn't stay! Let this be a lesson to you never to lose YOUR temper!

RABBIT The Duchess! The Duchess! Oh, my dear paws! Oh, my fur and whiskers! She'll get me executed, as sure as ferrets are ferrets! Where CAN I have dropped them, I wonder? Why, Marcus, what ARE you doing out here? Run home this moment, and fetch me a pair of gloves and a fan! Quick, now!

ALICE He must think I'm his servant or something. He'll be surprised when he finds out who I am! But I'd better take him his fan and gloves--that is, if I can find them. "W. RABBIT" This must be the place. Oh, look! Little cupcakes! They say "Eat Me." Well, I guess I can try them...Oh no, I'm GROWING! It was much nicer at home. I didn't keep getting bigger and smaller all the time, or being ordered around by mice and rabbits.

RABBIT Mary! Mary! Fetch me my gloves this instant! Uhhh...Uhhh... Well, the door must be locked. I'll go round and go in the window.

ALICE No you won't!

RABBIT AHHHH! Pat! Pat! Where are you?

PAT Right here, Boss! Digging for apples, yer honor!

RABBIT Digging for apples, indeed! Here! Come and help me out of THIS. Now tell me, Pat, what's that in the window?

PAT Sure, it's an arm, boss.

RABBIT An arm, you goose! Who ever saw one that size? Why, it fills the whole window!

PAT Sure, it does, yer honor, but it's an arm for all that.

RABBIT Well, it's got no business there, go and take it away!

PAT Sure, I don't like it, yer honor, at all, at all!

RABBIT Do as I tell you, you coward!

ALICE I wish they would get me out of here.

RABBIT Where's the other ladder?

PAT Bill's got the other. Bill! fetch it here, lad! Here, put 'em up at this corner. No, tie 'em together first--they don't reach half high enough yet--

W RABBIT Oh! they'll do well enough; don't be particular--Here, Bill! catch hold of this rope--Who's going down the chimney?

PAT I won't! YOU do it!

RABBIT I won't! Bill's going down--Here, Bill! You're going down the chimney!'

ALICE Oh! So, Bill's coming down the chimney, is he?' This fireplace is narrow, but I THINK I can kick a little!

PAT There goes Bill!

RABBIT Catch him! Hold up his head. Don't choke him.

PAT What happened to you? Tell us all about it!

BILL Well, I hardly know, but I'm too flustered to tell you--all I know is, something came at me like a Jack-in-the- box, and up I went like a firework!

RABBIT We must burn the house down!

ALICE That's it. I'm trying one of these "drink me" bottles. Oh, it shrunk me more than I expected! Well, I better get out of here.

CATERPILLAR Who are YOU?

ALICE I--I don't know, sir. I know who I WAS when I got up this morning, but I think I changed several times since then.

CATERPILLAR What do you mean by that? Explain yourself!

ALICE I can't explain MYSELF, I'm afraid, because I'm not myself, you see.

CATERPILLAR I don't see.

ALICE Well, I can't put it more clearly because I can't understand it myself, and being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing.

CATERPILLAR No, it isn't.

ALICE Well, maybe not for you yet, but when you have to turn into a cocoon, and you will someday, you know, then after that into a butterfly, then you'll feel weird, won't you?

CATERPILLAR Not a bit.

ALICE Well, maybe your feelings are different. All I know is, it would feel very weird to ME.

CATERPILLAR You! Who are YOU?

ALICE I think you should tell me who YOU are, first.

CATERPILLAR Why?

ALICE That's it. I'm leaving.

CATERPILLAR Come back! I've got something important to say!

ALICE What?

CATERPILLAR Keep your temper.

ALICE Is that all?

CATERPILLAR No. So, you think you're changed, do you?

ALICE I'm afraid I am, sir. I can't remember things and I don't keep the same size for more than ten minutes!

CATERPILLAR Can't remember WHAT things?

ALICE I can't even remember Mary had a Little Lamb!

CATERPILLAR Try it.

ALICE Mary had a little ham, whose skin was pink as bacon. And every time she sliced it up, all of it was taken.

CATERPILLAR That is not said right.

ALICE Not QUITE right, I'm afraid. Some of the words got changed.

CATERPILLAR It is wrong from beginning to end. What size do you want to be?

ALICE I don't care what size I am! I just don't want to change so much, you know?

CATERPILLAR I DON'T know.

ALICE Well, I'd like to be a LITTLE larger, sir, if you wouldn't mind. Three inches is a bad height to be.

CATERPILLAR It is a very good height indeed!

ALICE But I'm not used to it! I wish you animals wouldn't get so offended.

CATERPILLAR You'll get used to it in time. *(Crawling away)* One side will make you grow taller, and the other side will make you grow shorter.

ALICE One side of WHAT? The other side of WHAT?

CATERPILLAR Of the mushroom.

ALICE I HATE mushrooms...*(eats)* WHOOOAH! Well, I think I'm back to the right size. That house over there looks normal-sized? Is that a fish and a frog?

FISH For the Duchess. An invitation from the Queen to play croquet.

FROG From the Queen. An invitation for the Duchess to play croquet.

ALICE I wonder which one lives here? *(knocks)*

FROG There's no sort of use in knocking, for two reasons. First, because I'm on the same side of the door as you are; secondly, because they're making such a noise inside, no one could possibly hear you.

ALICE Then how do I get in?

FROG There might be some sense in knocking, if we had the door between us. For instance, if you were INSIDE, you might knock, and I could let you out, you know. I shall sit here till tomorrow...

door opens, crash

..or next day, maybe.

ALICE Well, it's pointless talking to him.

Door opens

Oh, hello. I'm trying to find my way...AHCHOO! Wow, there's too much pepper in that soup! Ummm, why is your cat grinning?

DUCHESS It's a Cheshire cat, that's why. Pig!

ALICE I didn't know that Cheshire cats always grinned. I didn't know that cats COULD grin.

DUCHESS They all can, and most of 'em do.

ALICE I don't know of any that do.

DUCHESS You don't know much, and that's a fact.

Crash

ALICE Careful! You almost knocked off your baby's nose!

DUCHESS If everybody minded their own business, the world would go round much faster than it does.

ALICE That wouldn't be a good thing. It would make the day and night shorter. My brother told me the earth takes twenty-four hours to turn round on its axis...

DUCHESS Speaking of axes, chop off his head!

ALICE What!

DUCHESS Here, hold this.

baby cries

I must go and get ready to play croquet with the Queen.

ALICE If I don't take this baby away with me, they're going to kill it in a day or two. Don't grunt, baby. You sound like a pig. Oh, wait. You ARE a pig! Well, it was an ugly baby, but it's a pretty piggy! *(laughs)* Whoa, it's that weird grinning cat. Um, Mr. Cheshire Cat, could you tell me, please, which way I should go from here?

CAT That depends on where you want to get to.

ALICE I don't really care where...

CAT Then it doesn't matter which way you go.

ALICE ...as long as I get SOMEWHERE.

CAT Oh, you're sure to do that, if you walk long enough.

ALICE What kind of people live around here?

CAT In THAT direction lives a Hatter, and in THAT direction lives a March Hare. Visit either you like: they're both crazy.

ALICE But I don't want to be around crazy people!

CAT Oh, you can't help that. We're all crazy here. I'm crazy. You're crazy.

ALICE How do you know I'm crazy?

CAT You must be, or you wouldn't have come here.
ALICE And how do you know that you're crazy?
CAT A dog growls when it's angry, and wags its tail when it's happy. I growl when I'm pleased, and wag my tail when I'm angry. Therefore, I'm crazy.
ALICE It's called purring, not growling.
CAT Call it what you like. Are you playing croquet with the Queen today?
ALICE Well, I like to play mini-golf. But I haven't been invited yet.
CAT You'll see me there. By the way, what happened to the baby? I almost forgot to ask.
ALICE It turned into a pig.
CAT I thought it would.
ALICE Where did he go? Well, I guess I'll visit the March Hare. I don't need a new hat...
CAT Did you say pig, or fig?
ALICE I said pig, and I wish you wouldn't keep appearing and disappearing. It's freaking me out.
CAT All right.
ALICE Huh. It looks like they're having a party.
HATTER, HARE, DORMOUSE No room! No room!
ALICE There's PLENTY of room!
HARE Have some wine.
ALICE I'm too young to drink wine! And besides, I don't see any wine.
HARE There isn't any.
ALICE Then it wasn't very nice for you to offer it.
HARE It wasn't very nice of you to sit down without being invited!
ALICE I didn't know it was just YOUR table. It's set for many more than three.
HATTER Your hair wants to be cut.
ALICE You shouldn't make rude comments about people's appearance.
HATTER Why is a raven like a writing-desk?
ALICE Oh, I like riddles. I think I can guess that.
HARE Do you mean that you think you can find out the answer to it?

ALICE Yes. Well, maybe...

HARE Then you should say what you mean.

ALICE I do. At least I mean what I say. That's the same thing, you know.

HATTER Not the same thing at all! You might just as well say that "I see what I eat" is the same thing as "I eat what I see"!

HARE You might just as well say that "I like what I get" is the same thing as "I get what I like"!

DORMOUSE You might just as well say that "I breathe when I sleep" is the same thing as "I sleep when I breathe"!

HATTER It IS the same thing with you. What day of the month is it?

ALICE I think it's the fourth.

HATTER Then my watch is two days wrong! I told you butter wouldn't fix it!

HARE It was the BEST butter.

HATTER Yes, but some crumbs must have got in as well. You shouldn't have put it in with the bread-knife.

HARE It was the BEST butter, you know.

ALICE What a funny watch! It tells the day of the month, and doesn't tell what o'clock it is!

HATTER Why should it? Does YOUR watch tell you what year it is?

ALICE Of course not, but that's because it stays the same year for such a long time.

HATTER Which is just the case with MINE. The Dormouse is asleep again.

DORMOUSE Of course, of course; just what I was going to remark myself.

HATTER Have you guessed the riddle yet?

ALICE No, I give up. What's the answer?

HATTER I haven't the slightest idea.

HARE Nor I.

ALICE Don't you have better things to do with your time than wasting it asking riddles that have no answers?

HATTER If you knew Time as well as I do you wouldn't talk about wasting IT. It's HIM.

ALICE I don't know what you mean.

HATTER Of course you don't! You've probably never even spoke to Time!

ALICE No, but I know I have to beat time when I learn music.

HATTER Ah! That explains it. You shouldn't beat him. If you treat him nicely, he'll do almost anything you want with the clock. For instance, suppose it was eight o'clock in the morning, just time start school. You'd only have to whisper a hint to Time, and round goes the clock in a twinkling! Half-past noon, time for lunch!

HARE I wish it was.

ALICE That would be awesome. But, if I just ate breakfast, I wouldn't be hungry for lunch.

HATTER Not at first, but you could keep it at half-past noon as long as you want.

ALICE Is that the way YOU do it?

HATTER No. We had a fight last March--just before the March Hare went mad, you know. It was at the great concert given by the Queen of Hearts, and I had to sing "Twinkle, twinkle, little bat! How I wonder what you're at!" You know the song, perhaps?

ALICE I've heard something like it.

HATTER It goes on, you know. "Up above the world you fly, Like a tea-tray in the sky. Twinkle, twinkle--"

DORMOUSE Twinkle, twinkle, twinkle, twinkle...

HATTER Go back to sleep! Well, I'd hardly finished the first verse when the Queen jumped up and bawled out, "He's murdering the time! Off with his head!" And ever since that he won't do a thing I ask! It's always six o'clock now.

ALICE Is that why the table is set for so many people?

HATTER Yes, that's it. It's always dinner time, and we don't have time to do the dishes.

ALICE So you keep moving around the table.

HATTER Exactly so, as things get used up.

ALICE But what happens when you come to the beginning again?

HARE I'm getting tired of this. I vote you tells us a story.

ALICE I don't know one.
HATTER AND HARE Then the Dormouse WILL! Wake up, Dormouse!
DORMOUSE I wasn't asleep. I heard every word you fellows were saying.
HARE Tell us a story!
ALICE Yes, please do!
HATTER And be quick about it, or you'll be asleep again before it's done.
DORMOUSE Once upon a time there were three little sisters, and their names were Elsie, Lacie, and Tillie, and they lived at the bottom of a well.
ALICE What did they eat?
DORMOUSE They lived on syrup.
ALICE They can't just eat syrup! They'd be sick.
DORMOUSE They were. VERY sick.
ALICE But why did they live at the bottom of a well?
HARE Have some more tea.
ALICE I haven't had any yet, so I can't take more.
HATTER You mean you can't take LESS. It's very easy to take MORE than nothing.
ALICE Why did they live at the bottom of a well?
DORMOUSE It was a syrup well.
ALICE There's no such thing!
HATTER AND HARE Shhh! Shhhh!
DOR**MOUSE** Well, maybe you'd better finish the story for yourself.
ALICE No, please go on! I won't interrupt again.
DORMOUSE ...And so these three little sisters--they were learning to draw, you know.
ALICE What did they draw?
DORMOUSE Syrup.
HATTER I want a clean cup. Let's all move one down.
ALICE But I don't understand. Where did they get syrup from?
HATTER You can get water out of a water-well, so you could get syrup out of a syrup-well--eh, stupid?
ALICE But they were IN the well.

DORMOUSE Of course they were. Well in. They were learning to draw and they drew all manner of things--everything that begins with an M.

ALICE Why with an M?

HARE Why not?

DORMOUSE ...that begins with an M, such as mouse-traps, and the moon, and memory, and muchness-- you know you say things are "much of a muchness"--did you ever see such a thing as a drawing of a muchness?

ALICE I don't think...

HATTER Then you shouldn't talk.

ALICE That's it. I'm leaving! I'll never go THERE again! It's the stupidest party I ever was at in all my life! Oh, look. It's a flower garden! Who are those guys? They look like giant cards!

TWO Look out now, Five! Don't go splashing paint over me like that!

FIVE I couldn't help it. Seven jogged my elbow.

SEVEN That's right, Five! Always lay the blame on others!

FIVE YOU'D better not talk! I heard the Queen say only yesterday you deserved to be beheaded!

TWO What for?

SEVEN That's none of YOUR business, Two!

FIVE Yes, it IS his business! And I'll tell him--it was for bringing the cook tulip-roots instead of onions.

SEVEN Well, of all the unjust things...

ALICE Excuse me, but why you are painting those roses?

TWO Why the fact is, you see, this here ought to have been a RED rose-tree, and we put a white one in by mistake; and if the Queen was to find it out, we should all have our heads cut off, you know. So you see, we're doing our best, before she comes, to...

FIVE The Queen! The Queen!

QUEEN Who is this? What's your name, child?

ALICE My name is ALICE, your Majesty.

QUEEN And who are THESE?

ALICE How should I know? It's none of my business.

QUEEN Off with her head! Off...

ALICE Nonsense!

KING She's only a child, my dear.

QUEEN Turn them over! Get up! What HAVE you been doing here?

TWO May it please your Majesty, we were trying...

QUEEN I see! Off with their heads!

ALICE Don't worry. Hide over here!

QUEEN Are their heads off?

KING Their heads are gone, if it please your Majesty!

QUEEN That's right! Can you play croquet?

ALICE I can play mini-golf.

QUEEN Come on, then!

RABBIT It's--it's a very fine day!

ALICE Very. Where's the Duchess?

RABBIT Hush! Hush! She's under sentence of execution.

ALICE What for?

RABBIT Did you say "What a pity!"?

ALICE No, I didn't. I said "What for?"

RABBIT She boxed the Queen's ears.

ALICE (*laughs)*
Oh, hush! The Queen will hear you! You see, she came rather late, and the Queen said...

QUEEN Get to your places!

CAT How are you getting on?

ALICE I don't think they play at all fairly, and they all fight so much you can't hear, and they don't seem to have any rules. If they do, nobody follows them, and it's confusing when all the things are alive. My club is that flamingo walking around over there, and my ball ran away!

CAT How do you like the Queen?

ALICE I don't. She's so ...uhhh...likely to win, that it's hardly worth while finishing the game.

QUEEN HA!

KING Who ARE you talking to?

ALICE It's a friend of mine...a Cheshire Cat.

KING I don't like the look of it at all. However, it may kiss my hand if it likes.

CAT I'd rather not.

KING Don't be rude, and don't look at me like that!

ALICE A cat can look at a king. I read that in some book, but I don't remember where.

KING Well, it must be removed. My dear! I wish you would have this cat removed!

QUEEN Off with his head!

KING But his head IS off! I don't even see his body...

QUEEN If it's got a head, it can have it cut off!

ALICE It belongs to the Duchess: you'd better ask HER about it.

QUEEN She's in prison. Someone bring her here at once!

DUCHESS Oh, I am so glad to see you again, you wonderful child!

ALICE The game's going better now, I think.

DUCHESS Yes. And the moral of that is--"Oh, 'tis love, 'tis love, that makes the world go round!"

ALICE Somebody told me that it's done by everybody minding their own business!

DUCHESS Well! It means pretty much the same thing, and the moral of THAT is--"Take care of the sense, and the sounds WILL take care of themselves." Does your flamingo bite?

ALICE He might.

DUCHESS Flamingoes and mustard both bite. And the moral of that is--"Birds of a feather flock together."'

ALICE But mustard isn't a bird.

DUCHESS Right, as usual. What a clear way you have of putting things!

ALICE It's a mineral, I think.

DUCHESS Of course it is. There's a large mustard-mine near here. And the moral of that is--"The more there is of mine, the less there is of yours."

ALICE Wait, I think it's a vegetable. It doesn't look like one, but it is.

DUCHESS I quite agree with you, and the moral of that is--"Be what you would seem to be"--or if you'd like it put more simply--"Never imagine yourself not to be otherwise than what it might appear to others that what you were or might have been was not

otherwise than what you had been would have appeared to them to be otherwise."

ALICE I think I would understand that better if you write it down.

DUCHESS A fine day, your Majesty!

QUEEN Now, I give you fair warning. Either you or your head must be off, and that in about half no time! Take your choice! Have you met the Mock Turtle yet?

ALICE No. I don't even know what a Mock Turtle is.

QUEEN It's the thing Mock Turtle Soup is made from.

ALICE I never saw one, or heard of one.

QUEEN Come on, then, and he shall tell you his history. Up, lazy thing! Take this child to see the Mock Turtle, and to hear his history. I must go back and see after some executions I have ordered.

GRYPHON What fun!

ALICE What IS the fun?

GRYPHON Why, HER, of course. They never actually execute anybody, you know. Come on!

ALICE What ARE you?

GRYPHON Why, I'm a gryphon, of course. Can't you tell from my beak? Or my lion paws?

ALICE I've seen pictures of something like you, but I thought you were a made up creature.

GRYPHON Well, I thought children were made up creatures too. I suppose we were both wrong. Come on. Let's hear the Mock Turtle's sorrowful tale.

ALICE What makes it sorrowful?

GRYPHON Oh, it's all in his head. He hasn't got no sorrow, you know. Come on! Hello, Mock Turtle. This here child wants for to know your history, she do.

TURTLE I'll tell it, but don't speak a word till I've finished. Once, I was a real Turtle. When we were little, we went to school in the sea. The master was an old Turtle. We used to call him Tortoise.

ALICE Why did you call him Tortoise, if he was a turtle?

TURTLE We called him Tortoise because he taught us.

GRYPHON You ought to be ashamed of yourself for asking such a simple question. Drive on, old fellow! Don't be all day about it!

TURTLE Yes, we went to school in the sea, though you may not believe it.

ALICE I never said I didn't!

TURTLE You did.

GRYPHON Hold your tongue!

TURTLE We had the best of educations--in fact, we went to school every day.

ALICE I do too. There's nothing special about that.

TURTLE Do you have extras?

ALICE Yes. We learn Spanish and music.

TURTLE And washing?

ALICE Of course not!

TURTLE Ah! Then yours isn't a really good school. Now at OURS they had Spanish, music, AND WASHING--extra.

ALICE You don't need to wash much living at the bottom of the sea.

TURTLE I couldn't afford to learn it. I only took the regular classes. Reeling and Writhing, of course, to begin with, and then the different branches of Arithmetic--Ambition, Distraction, Uglification, and Derision.

ALICE I never heard of "Uglification. What is it?

GRYPHON What! Never heard of uglifying! You know what to beautify is, I suppose?

ALICE Yes. It means--to--make--anything-- prettier.

GRYPHON Well, then, if you don't know what to uglify is, you ARE a simpleton.

ALICE What else did you learn?

TURTLE Well, there was Mystery, ancient and modern, with Seaography: then Drawling--the Drawling-master was an old conger-eel, that used to come once a week: HE taught us Drawling, Stretching, and Fainting in Coils.

ALICE What was THAT like?

TURTLE Well, I can't show it to you myself. I'm too stiff. And the Gryphon never learned it.

GRYPHON Didn't have time. I went to the Classics master, though. He was an old crab, HE was.

TURTLE I never went to him. He taught Laughing and Grief, they used to say.

GRYPHON So he did, so he did.

ALICE How many hours a day did you go to school?

TURTLE Ten hours the first day, nine the next, and so on.

ALICE Why did they do it that way?

GRYPHON That's the reason they're called lessons. Because they lessen from day to day.

ALICE Then the eleventh day must have been a holiday?

TURTLE Of course it was.

ALICE What did you do on the twelfth day?

GRYPHON That's enough about lessons. Tell him something about the games now. And no more interrupting!

TURTLE You may not have lived much under the sea...

ALICE I haven't.

GRYPHON Shhh!

TURTLE ...and perhaps you were never even introduced to a lobster...

ALICE I once tasted...No, never!

TURTLE ...so you can have no idea what a delightful thing a Lobster Quadrille is!

ALICE No. What is it?

GRYPHON Why, it's a dance! First, you form into a line along the sea-shore...

TURTLE Two lines! Seals, turtles, salmon, and so on; then, when you've cleared all the jelly-fish out of the way...

GRYPHON THAT generally takes some time.

TURTLE You advance twice...

GRYPHON Each with a lobster as a partner!

TURTLE Of course. Advance twice, set to partners...

GRYPHON Change lobsters, and retire in same order...

TURTLE Then, you know, you throw the...

GRYPHON The lobsters!

TURTLE ...as far out to sea as you can...

GRYPHON Swim after them!

TURTLE Turn a somersault in the sea!

GRYPHON Back to land again...
TURTLE …and that's all the first part.
ALICE It must be a very fun dance.
TURTLE Would you like to see a little of it?
ALICE Yes, very much.
TURTLE Well, we can't do it without lobsters, you know. Any shrimp could have told you that.
GRYPHON Come, let's hear some of YOUR adventures.
ALICE Well, I could tell you my adventures, beginning from this morning, but I can't go back to yesterday, because I was a different person then.
TURTLE Explain that.
GRYPHON No, no! The adventures first. Explanations take such a long time.
TURTLE I would like to have it explained.
GRYPHON He can't explain it. Would you like the Mock Turtle to sing you a song?
ALICE Yes, a song, please!
GRYPHON Sing "Turtle Soup," WILL you, old fellow?
TURTLE Beautiful Soup, so rich and green, Waiting in a hot tureen! Who for such dainties would not stoop? Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup! Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup! Beau--ootiful Soo--oop! Beau--ootiful Soo--oop! Soo--oop of the e--e--evening, Beautiful, beautiful Soup!
RABBIT VOICE: The trial's beginning!
GRYPHON Come on!
ALICE What trial is it?
RABBIT Silence in the court!
KING Herald, read the accusation!
RABBIT The Queen of Hearts, she made some tarts, All on a summer day: The Knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts, And took them quite away!
KING Consider your verdict.
RABBIT Not yet, not yet! There's a great deal to come before that!
KING Call the first witness.
RABBIT First witness! The Hatter!

HATTER I beg pardon, your Majesty, for bringing these in, but I hadn't quite finished my dinner when I was sent for.
KING You should have finished. When did you begin?
HATTER Fourteenth of March, I think it was.
HARE Fifteenth.
DORMOUSE Sixteenth.
KING Write that down. Take off your hat.
HATTER It isn't mine.
KING Stolen!
HATTER I sell them! I've none of my own. I'm a hatter.
KING Give your evidence, and don't be nervous, or I'll have you executed on the spot.
DORMOUSE I wish you wouldn't squeeze so. I can hardly breathe.
ALICE I can't help it. I'm growing.
DORMOUSE You've got no right to grow here.
ALICE But I can't help it!
QUEEN Bring me the list of the singers in the last concert!
KING Give your evidence, or I'll have you executed, whether you're nervous or not.
HATTER I'm a poor man, your Majesty, and I hadn't begun my dinner, and what with the bread-and-butter getting so thin, and the twinkling of the tea...
KING The twinkling of the what?
HATTER It began with the tea.
KING Of course twinkling begins with a T! Do you think I'm stupid? Go on!
HATTER I'm a poor man, and most things twinkled after that--only the March Hare said...
HARE I didn't!
HATTER You did!
HARE I deny it!
KING He denies it. Leave out that part.
HATTER Well, at any rate, the Dormouse said...and after that, I cut some more bread- and-butter...
KING But what did the Dormouse say?
HATTER I can't remember.
KING You MUST remember, or I'll have you executed.

HATTER I'm a poor man, your Majesty...
KING You're a very poor speaker. If that's all you know about it, you may stand down.
HATTER I can't stand any lower. I'm on the floor, as it is.
KING Then you may SIT down.
HATTER I'd rather finish my dinner.
KING You may go.
QUEEN And just take his head off outside.
KING Call the next witness!
RABBIT The Duchess!
KING Give your evidence.
DUCHESS No.
RABBIT Your Majesty must cross-examine THIS witness.
KING Well, if I must, I must. What are tarts made of?
DUCHESS Pepper, mostly.
DORMOUSE Syrup.
QUEEN Collar that Dormouse! Behead that Dormouse! Turn that Dormouse out of court! Suppress him! Pinch him! Off with his whiskers!
KING Call the next witness. Really, my dear, YOU must cross-examine the next witness. It makes my forehead ache!
RABBIT ALICE!
ALICE Here! Oh, I'm sorry. I knocked over the jury...
KING The trial cannot proceed until all of the jury are back in their proper places-- ALL. Now, what do you know about this business?
ALICE Nothing.
KING Nothing WHATEVER?
ALICE Nothing whatever.
KING That's very important. Write it down.
RABBIT UNimportant, your Majesty means, of course.
KING UNimportant, of course, I meant. Important--unimportant-- unimportant—important...
ALICE Your majesty...
KING Silence! Rule Forty-two. ALL PERSONS MORE THAN A MILE HIGH TO LEAVE THE COURT.
ALICE I'm not a mile high.
KING You are.

QUEEN Nearly two miles high.

ALICE Well, I won't go, because that's not a regular rule: you made it up just now.

KING It's the oldest rule in the book.

ALICE Then it should to be Number One.

KING Consider your verdict.

RABBIT There's more evidence to come yet, please, your Majesty. This paper has just been picked up.

QUEEN What does it say?

RABBIT I haven't opened it yet, but it seems to be a letter, written by the prisoner to--to somebody.

KING It must have been that, unless it was written to nobody, which isn't usual, you know. Who is it written to?

RABBIT It doesn't say. In fact, there's nothing written on the OUTSIDE. It isn't a letter, after all. It's a poem.

KING Is it in the prisoner's handwriting?

RABBIT No, and that's the strangest thing about it.

KING He must have imitated somebody else's handwriting.

KNAVE Please your Majesty, I didn't write it, and they can't prove I did: there's no name signed at the end.

KING If you didn't sign it, that only makes the matter worse. You MUST have meant some mischief, or else you'd have signed your name like an honest man.

QUEEN That PROVES his guilt.

ALICE No it doesn't! You don't even know what it says.

KING Read the paper.

RABBIT Where shall I begin, please, your Majesty?

KING Begin at the beginning and go on till you come to the end: then stop.

RABBIT They told me you had been to her,
And mentioned me to him.
She gave me a good character,
But said I could not swim.
He sent them word I had not gone
(We know it to be true):
If she should push the matter on,

What would become of you?
I gave her one, they gave him two,
You gave us three or more;
They all returned from him to you,
Though they were mine before.
If I or she should chance to be
Involved in this affair,
He trusts to you to set them free,
Exactly as we were.
My notion was that you had been
(Before she had this fit)
An obstacle that came between
Him, and ourselves, and it.
Don't let him know she liked them best,
For this must ever be
A secret, kept from all the rest,
Between yourself and me.'

KING That's the most important piece of evidence we've heard yet, so now let the jury...

ALICE If any one of them can explain it, I'll give them a dollar. I don't think it means anything.

KING Well, if there's no meaning in it, that saves a lot of trouble, you know, since we don't have to try to find any. And yet I don't know. I seem to see some meaning in them, after all. "--said i could not swim--" you can't swim, can you, Knave?

KNAVE Do I look like it? I'm made of cardboard.

KING All right, so far. "We know it to be true--" that's the jury, of course-- "I gave her one, they gave him two--" why, that must be what he did with the tarts, you know.

ALICE But then it said "They all returned from him to you."

KING Why, there they are! Nothing can be clearer than that. Then again--"Before she had this fit--" you never had fits, my dear, I think?

QUEEN Never!

KING Then the words don't FIT you. Get it? It's a pun! *(sigh)* Let the jury consider their verdict.

QUEEN No, no! Sentence first--verdict afterwards.
ALICE No, it doesn't work that way!
QUEEN Hold your tongue!
ALICE I won't!
QUEEN Off with her head!
ALICE I'm not afraid of you! You're nothing but a pack of cards! Just a pack...of...cards....
MAGGIE Wake up, Alice! You've been asleep for an hour!
ALICE Wow, that was the strangest dream I've ever had!