

ALICE IN WONDERLAND BY LEWIS CARROLL

Some notes that might be useful or interesting.

“Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” commonly known as “Alice in Wonderland” was published in 1865.

Lewis Carroll was a mathematics professor at the University of Oxford. His real name was Charles Dodgson. The artist John Tenniel provided wood-engraved illustrations for the book.

The story of Wonderland came about when, during a picnic outing, 10 year old Alice Liddell asked Charles Dodgson for a story to entertain her and her sisters. Dodgson regaled the girls with tales of a girl named Alice who fell into a rabbit hole and afterwards Alice Liddell begged him to write it down for her. He promised to do so and many months later he presented her with a manuscript entitled “Alice’s Adventures Underground”. In the meantime he had decided to rewrite the story as a commercial venture.

The book received positive reviews on publication and is now one of the best known works of Victorian literature. It is credited with ushering in a new era of children's literature, moving away from instructive texts and into ones which are aimed at delighting and entertaining children instead.

Since publication the book has never been out of print and has been translated into 174 languages.

It tells the story of a girl who falls through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by strange creatures. It's a classic work of literary nonsense featuring characters that have come to be iconic. Like the Mad Hatter and the Cheshire Cat.

Alice in Wonderland has had a lasting impact on literature and culture, inspiring countless interpretations and adaptations.

Some critics read "Alice" as a version of Carroll's life. Saying Alice is based on Alice Liddell and that the Dodo is Carroll himself, even the Mad Hatter's Tea Party is a version of Alice's own birthday party. But other critics say that the character of Alice bears little relationship to the real Alice Liddell. And Carroll always said that his character was entirely fictional.

Some readers believe that the book critiques Victorian attitudes towards childhood. Alice's mistreatment by the creatures of Wonderland echoes how children were treated. Ignored and frustrated by seemingly illogical rules and requests.

Modern critics have enjoyed the way that Alice defies the gendered mid-Victorian conceptions of little girls. Alice does not have a gentle feminine temperament and she challenges the adult figures in Wonderland, often correcting them when she thinks they are wrong.



ALICE LIDDELL



LEWIS CARROLL



AN ILLUSTRATION FROM THE ORIGINAL BOOK