



NEW MEXICO YOUNG ACTORS

Present

***Alice's Adventures in
Wonderland***

Adapted and dramatized by **Tim Kelly**
Based on the novel by **Lewis Carroll**

TEACHER STUDY GUIDE

Dear Teachers,

Welcome to New Mexico Young Actors production of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. We are offering this study guide to help you prepare your classes for our upcoming production at your school. Included in this guide are a **synopsis** of our story, a **list of characters** you'll meet in the play, a **vocabulary list** and **lesson ideas**, as well as some **audience protocol** reminders. We always enjoy hearing from you and your students and look forward to receiving any pictures, stories, or comments about the production after our visit. Thank you for your support of New Mexico Young Actors!

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND SYNOPSIS

The story centers on Alice, a young girl who falls asleep in a meadow and dreams that she follows the White Rabbit down a rabbit hole. She has many wondrous, often bizarre adventures with thoroughly illogical and very strange creatures, often changing size unexpectedly (she grows as tall as a house and shrinks to 3 inches). She encounters the bubbling, poetry-quoting Caterpillar, the Duchess (with a baby that becomes a pig), and the mysterious Cheshire Cat, who is missing its smile, and she attends a strange endless tea party with the Mad Hatter and the March Hare. She plays a game of croquet with an unmanageable flamingo for a croquet mallet and uncooperative hedgehogs for croquet balls while the Queen calls for the execution of almost everyone present. Alice is then called as a witness in the trial of the Knave of Hearts, who is accused of having stolen the Queen's tarts. However, when the Queen demands that Alice be beheaded, Alice realizes that the characters are only a pack of cards, and she then awakens from her dream.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Alice – the protagonist of our story, a young girl

White Rabbit – never on time

Mouse – a long tale to tell

Red Queen – a chess figure

Soldier – a playing card

Knave of Hearts – another playing card

Queen of Hearts – a tyrant

Caterpillar – a sleepy sort

Frog Footman – a servant

Duchess – a domineering type

Cook – loves pepper

Cheshire Cat – walks about without its grin

Tweedledee & Tweedledum – twins, a pair of fat schoolchildren

Mad Hatter – mad as a March Hare

March Hare – mad as a hatter

Dormouse – a sleepy-type rodent

Rose, Lily, & Daisy – talking flowers

White Queen – another chess figure

Knight – an aged horseman

Humpty Dumpty – a conceited egg

King of Hearts – monarch of Wonderland

Sister – Alice’s elder sister

LESSON IDEAS

Preparing Your Class for a Live Theater Experience

1. *How many of you have experienced a live theater performance? What did you see?*
 2. *What are some of the differences between seeing a play and watching television or going to a movie?*
- Theater features live onstage actors. They have spent many weeks rehearsing for the performance.
 - The audience is a very important part of the performance. Appreciation for the performers is shown by close attention, participation, and applause at the proper times. The success of the production often depends on the audience.
 - It is easy to identify with live actors. You can see how they use their bodies and voices to convey different emotions.
 - Actors wear costumes and make-up to help create the impression of the characters they portray.
 - There is much more to most live performances than actors. Special sets, effects, lighting, music, costumes, and of course, the audience add to the total experience.

Theater Etiquette

Discuss the role of the audience and proper theater etiquette.

- Arrive on time so that you do not miss anything and so that you will not disturb the rest of the audience while trying to get comfortable in your seat.
- It is easier for you (and the rest of the audience) to see and hear the performance if you stay seated and listen very carefully.
- There is no intermission during the performance, which is 60 minutes in length. Be sure to use the restroom before the performance begins.
- Although you may wish to say something to the actors, you need to hold your thoughts, as you will disturb their concentration.
- Sing or participate *if and only if* you are invited to do so. Your participation is often very important.
- Listen to how the music sets the mood and affects your own feelings.
- Show the cast and crew your appreciation for their hard work with applause after a song, dance, or joke.

Theatrical Terms to Know:

Actor	Overture
Acts/Scenes	Play
Balcony	Playwright
Box Office	Producer
Curtain Call	Program
Costumes	Props
Director	Scenery/Set
Lobby	Stage
Musical Theater	Stagehand
Orchestra	Usher
Pit	

Classroom Discussion and Extension Activities (Pre- or Post-Performance)

Content Vocabulary

The following are some words you will hear spoken in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*:

Accusation	Madness
Chess	Mutton
Courteous	Seize
Croquet	Sentence (in a judicial context)
Curiouser	Temperamental
Duchess	Verdict
Evidence	

Reading/Writing

- Read aloud the original novel of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll to your class, or consider reading excerpts if time doesn't allow you to read the entire book.
- Write a description of one of the characters and share it with a partner. After sharing, students can question each other about the ideas presented. This can be done with a drawing for lower levels.

Other Curricular Connections

- Draw a picture of a favorite scene or character.
- Draw an advertisement or program cover for the play.
- Ask the students to identify musical instruments that they heard in the play. Discuss other instruments that could have been added for greater effect.
- How did the music express the action or emotion of the story (tempo, volume, range of notes, etc.)?
- Recreate a scene from the play in your classroom. Assign students to play various characters and have them work together to create short scenes from the play.

INTERNET & OTHER RESOURCES

WEBSITES

A short article with historical background and photos of the real Lewis Carroll and Alice:

<https://www.historic-uk.com/CultureUK/Real-Lewis-Carroll-and-Alice/>

The Lewis Carroll Society of North America's website is bursting with curricular connections and resources:

<https://www.lewiscarroll.org/>

This site was developed by an Alice in Wonderland super-fan, and features tons of online kid-friendly activities:

<http://www.ruthannzaroff.com/wonderland/>

RE-TELLINGS AND VERSIONS OF *ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND*

Alice in Wonderland: The Mad Hatter's Tea Party (A Modern Re-Telling) adapted by Joe Rhatigan and Charles Nurnburg (2016)

Alice in Wonderland: Graphic Novels (Usborne Edition) by Russell Punter and Simona Bursi (2020)

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