

A Mad Tea-Party



Read the following extract from 'Alice In Wonderland', by Lewis Carroll, and answer the questions about each section.

There was a table set out under a tree in front of the house, and the March Hare and the Hatter were having tea at it. A Dormouse was sitting between them, fast asleep.

The table was a large one, but the three were all crowded together at one corner of it. "No room! No room!" they cried out when they saw Alice coming.

"There's plenty of room," said Alice crossly. And she sat down in a large chair at one end of the table.

1) Where was the table?

2) Name the three people sitting at the table.

3) '*...the three were all crowded together at one corner of it.*'

What does the word 'crowded' mean?

4) Why did Alice say that there was plenty of room?

“Would you like some wine?” asked the March Hare.

Alice looked around the table but could see only tea. “I don’t see any wine,” she said.

“There isn’t any!” said the March Hare.

“Well that was very rude of you to offer it then,” replied Alice.

“Well it was very rude of you to sit out OUR table without being invited,” said the March Hare.

“I didn’t know that it was YOUR table,” said Alice. “It’s laid for a great many more people than three!”

The Hatter opened his eyes very wide and said, “What day of the month is it?” He took his watch out of his pocket, shook it and put it up to his ear.

Alice thought for a moment and then said, “The fourth.”

“Two days wrong,” sighed the Hatter.

The March Hare took the watch and looked at it gloomily, then he dipped it into his cup of tea and looked at it again.

Alice was watching them with some curiosity. “What a funny watch!” she said. “It tells the day of the month, and doesn’t tell what o’clock it is!” Alice felt dreadfully puzzled.

5) What did the March Hare offer Alice?

6) Why did Alice think that the March Hare was rude?

7) Why did the March Hare think that Alice was rude?

8) Who had a watch?

9) Why was Alice 'dreadfully puzzled'?

“We don’t need to tell the o’clock time here,” replied the Hatter. “It is always six o’clock here because we upset the Queen of Hearts!”

“Is that why there are so many tea-things put out here?” she asked.

“Yes, that’s exactly it!” replied the Hatter with a sigh. “It is always tea-time and we’ve no time to wash up so we keep moving around.”

“Suppose we change the subject,” the March Hare interrupted. “I’m getting tired of this chat and demand that the Dormouse tells us a story.” He pinched the Dormouse to wake him up.

The Dormouse slowly opened his eyes, “I was not asleep,” he said yawning. “I heard every word that you were saying.”

The Hatter and March Hare asked Dormouse to tell them a story. “And be quick about it,” said the March Hare. “Before you fall asleep again!”

“But I want a clean cup first,” said the Hatter. And they all moved round one seat to the left.

10) What time did the Hatter say it always was?

11) Why did the Hatter say that they kept moving seats?

12) '*... the March Hare interrupted.*'

What does the word 'interrupted' mean?

13) How did they wake up the Dormouse?

14) What did they want the Dormouse to do?

15) Why did they all move one seat to the left?
