

Alice in Wonderland



by Lewis Carroll

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, and the other two were using it as a cushion, resting their elbows on it, and talking over its head.

‘Very uncomfortable for the Dormouse,’ thought Alice; ‘only, as it’s asleep, I suppose it doesn’t mind.’

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 indignantly, and she sat down in a large arm-chair at one end of the table.

‘Have some wine,’ the March Hare said in an encouraging tone.

Alice looked all round the table, but there was nothing on it but tea. ‘I don’t see any wine,’ she remarked.

‘There isn’t any,’ said the March Hare.

‘Then it wasn’t very civil of you to offer it,’ said Alice angrily.

‘It wasn’t very civil of you to sit down without being invited,’ said the March Hare.

‘I didn’t know it was your table,’ said Alice; ‘it’s laid for a great many more than three.’

‘Your hair wants cutting,’ said the Hatter. He had been looking at Alice for some time with great curiosity, and this was his first speech.

‘You should learn not to make personal remarks,’ Alice said with some severity; ‘it’s very rude.’

The Hatter opened his eyes very wide on hearing this; but all he said was, ‘Why is a raven like a writing-desk?’

‘Come, we shall have some fun now!’ thought Alice. ‘I’m glad they’ve begun asking riddles – I believe I can guess that,’ she added aloud.

1) What were the March Hare and Mad Hatter having?

They were having tea.

2) What did Alice sit on?

An arm-chair (or ‘A large arm-chair’)

3) What was being used as a cushion?

A Dormouse

4) Find and copy a word which means the same as *polite*.

civil

5) ...said Alice indignantly...

What does the word indignantly mean here?

Feeling annoyed or angry because something is unfair

6) Find and copy a word which means the same as *giving confidence or reassuring*.

encouraging

7) ...Alice said with some severity...

What does the word *severity* mean in this sentence? Circle one.

seriousness

sternness

difficulty

simply

8) Place these events in the order they occurred.

4

The Mad Hatter asked a riddle.

3

Alice was offered some wine.

1

Alice saw the table outside the house.

2

Alice sat down at the table.

9) What impression do you get of Alice from this extract?

Give two impressions. Refer to the text in your answer.

Possible answers:

She is thoughtful, because she wonders if the Dormouse is comfortable.

She is confident, because she sits at the table even though she is told there is no room.

She thinks manners are important, because she tells the March Hare and the Hatter off for being rude.

She likes riddles/games, because she says they are fun.

10) What impressions do you get of the March Hare in this extract? Give two impressions. Refer to the text in your answer.

Possible answers:

He is selfish, because he uses the Dormouse as a cushion.

He is selfish (or unkind), because he says there is no room at the table, even though there is.

He likes to tease people (or 'he isn't truthful'), because he offers Alice wine when there isn't any.

11) What do you think Alice will do next?

Accept any answer that includes links to the extract - for example:

I think Alice will try to answer the riddle, but the Hatter will say she is wrong and she will be cross. I don't think she will stay very long at the tea-party, because the Hatter and the March Hare aren't very kind.