



*All in the golden afternoon
Full leisurely we glide;
For both our oars, with little skill,
By little arms are plied,
While little hands make vain pretence
Our wanderings to guide.*

*Ah, cruel Three! In such an hour
Beneath such dreamy weather,
To beg a tale of breath too weak
To stir the tiniest feather!
Yet what can one poor voice avail
Against three tongues together?*

*Imperious Prima flashes forth
Her edict "to begin it"
In gentler tone Secunda hopes
"There will be nonsense in it!"
While Tertia interrupts the tale
Not more than once a minute.*

*Anon, to sudden silence won,
In fancy they pursue
The dream-child moving through a land
Of wonders wild and new,
In friendly chat with bird or beast
And half believe it true.*

*And ever, as the story drained
The wells of fancy dry,
And faintly strove that weary one
To put the subject by,
"The rest next time " "It is next time!"
The happy voices cry.*

*Thus grew the tale of Wonderland:
Thus slowly, one by one,
Its quaint events were hammered out
And now the tale is done,
And home we steer, a merry crew,
Beneath the setting sun.*

*Alice! A childish story take,
And with a gentle hand
Lay it where Childhood's dreams are twined
In Memory's mystic band,
Like pilgrim's wither'd wreath of flowers
Pluck'd in far-off land.*



Down the Rabbit-Hole

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, “and what is the use of a book,” thought Alice, “without pictures or conversation?”

So she was considering in her own mind (as well as she could, for the hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid) whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

There was nothing so *very* remarkable in that; nor did Alice think it so *very* much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself, “Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be too late!” (when she thought it over afterwards, it occurred to her that she ought to have wondered at this, but at the time it all seemed quite natural); but when the Rabbit actually *took a watch out of its waistcoat-pocket*, and





looked at it, and then hurried on, Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.

In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again.

The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well.

Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly, for she had plenty of time as she went down to look about her, and to wonder what was going to happen next. First, she tried to look down and make out what she was coming to, but it was too dark to see anything; then she looked at the sides of the well, and noticed that they were filled with cupboards and bookshelves: here and there she saw maps and pictures hung upon pegs. She took down a jar from one of the shelves as she passed: it was labelled "*ORANGE MARMALADE*", but to her great disappointment it was empty; she did not like to drop the jar for fear of killing somebody, so managed to put it into one of the cupboards as she fell past it.



金色的午後，
一切莫不愜意，我們泛著舟；
我們的兩支槳，兩隻小手臂，
不太有技巧地不斷划動槳，
小小的手，
假裝在帶著我們漫遊。

啊，三個殘忍的小東西！這個時刻，
在這樣宜人的天氣下，
央求講一個好聽的故事，
要一個累到連羽毛都吹不動的人來講！
而一個虛弱的聲音，
如何抵得過三張嘴巴的群而攻之？

蠻橫的長女毫不猶豫地
發出了命令「快開始」——
溫柔一點的次女希望
「故事裡不可以瞎掰！」
三女插嘴說
一分鐘裡最多只可以一次。
不久，在一陣寧靜中贏了，
她們在所追求的奇幻中，
作夢的孩子穿越過
奔放新奇的仙境，
與鳥兒和動物們親切地聊著話，
有一半的孩子都相信這是真的。

當故事乏味了，
當想像力的泉源枯竭了，
只能勉勉強強地繼續時，
就先擱下來吧，
「下回分曉吧」，「現在已經是下回了！」
這些快活的聲音大喊著。

就這樣，仙境的故事慢慢形成：
這樣慢慢地，一段接著一段，
新奇的事情慢慢地推敲出來，
而現在，故事大功告成了，
我們掌舵返家，一群快樂的船員，
在落日餘暉的時刻裡。

愛麗絲！上演了一個孩子的故事
一隻溫柔的手，
擱在交織著兒時夢想
的神秘記憶帶上，
就像朝聖者手中枯萎的花圈，
是在遠方摘下來。



第一章

墜入兔子洞

河岸邊，坐在姊姊身旁沒事可做的愛麗絲，開始感到不耐煩起來。她偷瞄了一、兩次姊姊正在讀的書，書上既沒有插圖，又沒有對話，「居然沒有插圖，也沒有對話，這種書有什麼用啊？」愛麗絲想。

於是，她心裡盤算著（她盡可能集中精神用力去想，因為酷熱的天氣讓她昏昏欲睡，變得遲鈍了），編織菊花環的樂趣，究竟值不值得讓她起身去摘花呢？這時，突然出現一隻粉紅色眼睛的白兔子，從她身邊跑過。

這種事情本來就沒有什麼值得一提的，因此當愛麗絲聽到兔子自言自語說：「天啊！天啊！我快遲到了！」也不覺得有什麼不尋常的。（稍後，當她再回想起時，才突然想到自己應該感到奇怪才對。可是在當時，一切看起來都是那麼自然。）不過，當兔子從牠背心的口袋裡掏出一隻懷錶，看看時間，再繼續趕路時，





愛麗絲就跳了起來，因為她突然想起自己從沒看過兔子穿背心，更別說口袋裡有懷錶的兔子了。因此在好奇心的驅使下，她越過了田野追著兔子，很幸運地，正好看到牠跳進樹籬下一個很大的兔子洞裡。

當愛麗絲跟著兔子跳進洞裡時，也沒想說要怎麼從兔子洞裡爬出來。

剛開始，兔子洞是一條直直的長隧道，接著倏然下降，因為路轉得太突然，愛麗絲還來不及反應、停下腳步，就跌進了深井般的洞裡。

如果不是井很深，那就是她下跌的速度很慢，因為當她往下墜的時候，還有充裕的時間可以觀察四周，並猜想接下來會發生什麼事。剛開始，她往下望，想看清楚自己會掉到哪裡，但下面太暗了，什麼也看不到。然後她看了看井的四周，發現周圍都是碗櫥和書架，掛鉤上吊滿了地圖和畫。在經過其中一個架子的時候，她順手拿了一個果醬瓶，上面標示著「橘子果醬」，但令她失望的是那是個空瓶子。她不敢隨便扔了它，怕會砸傷了下面的人，於是在經過另一個櫥子時，將瓶子放了回去。