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Alice WONDERLAND



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Spotlight: Literacy is a Playhouse program
with original funding provided by Joanne and Milt Brown.



Getting to Know You

The Cast of Alice in Wonderland

The cast was asked the following question: “What is the name of your family pet? If this pet were personified, what would be its favorite outfit and what piece of wisdom would it give you?” Here are the responses!



Abigail Burns (*Executioner/ Others*) Darby was a chocolate lab who felt like a big sister to me. She would probably wear a dress with daisies on it and have earrings that say “Darby.” She would tell me to follow my dreams, enjoy life, and take care of Bailey (my other dog).



Chloe Coffman (*Alice at certain performances*) Sadie is a pitbull-whippet mix who loves to sleep. She would lounge about in a yellow sundress. She would probably tell me YOLO (you only live once), so why spend it doing something you hate?



Kasey Dunifer (*Queen of Hearts*) Paprika is a cocker spaniel with eyelashes so long, you’d think they’re extensions! She’d wear a crop top for easy-access belly rubs while giving a presentation on the health benefits of ice cream for dogs.



John Flotho (*Mock Turtle/ Tweedledee*) My best friend is a cat named Cosmo. He loves treat-time and playing fetch, so he would rock a comfy hoodie and sneakers. His advice would be, “Don’t be afraid to retreat when you need to recharge.”



Michael Howland (*White Rabbit*) Oliver and Arrow are Aussiedoodles who love the outdoors and get the

zoomies when their buddies, the neighbor dogs, are also outside. They would wear superhero and sidekick costumes and adventure together!



Aditya Iyengar (*Caterpillar/ Knave of Hearts*) Brownie was our neighbor’s dog back in India but he stayed with us so often that he basically became a “shared” pet. He would definitely wear some athletic gear and pick up a tennis racket and shout at us to play with him. He never seemed to run out of energy!



Conor McMahon (*King of Hearts*) My dog Rosie is a Portuguese Water Dog. She is a very lazy old lady but will come running whenever someone needs to be loved. She would definitely wear yellow sweatpants and a hoodie every day. She would tell me to love everyone and remind me that loving yourself is just as important.



Katy Merriman (*Director*) Winterberry Whiskers is a mischievous grey kitten who would prefer to wear nothing. If forced into clothing, it would be a “kid who dressed themselves” look: tutu, leggings, tie dyed shirt, beanie, socks and sandals, and an assortment of accessories. Her advice would be to keep exploring and always ask for help in your loudest voice.



Julia Neighbors (*Alice at certain performances*) Mack is a black lab who loves bedtime, walks, and wearing bow ties to show

how handsome a gentleman he is. He would definitely add a top hat and tell me, "When in doubt, have a snack and nap it out."



Venya Pillai (*Gryphon/Others*) I never had any pets, but my favorite stuffed monkey, Oo-Ee, is a cheeky party animal.

You can usually find him on the dance floor in a bejeweled tuxedo and top hat saying things like, "Every day is a birthday party!"



Ava Pourian (*Queen's Court/7 of Spades/Others*) Saffi is our sweet puppy Cavapoo. She would dress in pajamas

and lounge around the house all day. She would tell me, "Don't worry, we'll do it tomorrow."



Katie Saldanha (*Mad Hatter*) Murray is a lab mix mutt who is proud to be shaped like a grape. He would only ever wear

a tee shirt that looks like a tuxedo. And he would always encourage us with "Anything can be food if you put your mind to it."



Benny Stieber (*Dormouse/Others*) Clark is a colorful betta fish whose namesake is Caitlin Clark. Clark

would wear a ball gown and diamonds around her neck. She'd tell me, "What's on the inside is more important than what's on the outside. Glug, glug!"



Charlie Syverson (*Queen's Court/Tweedledum/5 of Spades/Others*) Murphy is a pug who would wear a bathrobe and say, "Give me

treats."



Oliver Thrun (*March Hare/Humpty Dumpty*) I grew up on a farm and we had a grey-and-white cat named Sniffles who would

disappear for days at a time and only come back when she was hungry. I don't think she liked us very much, so her favorite outfit would be a tee shirt that read, "Leave me alone and give me food!" Her life motto was, "Scratch first and ask questions later!"



Libby Waterbury (*Red Queen/Cheshire Cat*) Bailey is a red golden retriever who would wear play clothes – sneakers, cotton

shorts, a colorful tank top from Target – because there's nothing she loves more than wrestling with her friends at doggie daycare. She would tell me, "There's no fence you can't dig under if you try hard and believe in yourself."



Ellie Wharff (*Queen's Court/2 of Spades/Others*) My dog Blue would be wearing sweatpants and sweatshirt and just lounge

around the house with his sweet personality. He would jump at the chance to join us at the dinner table!



Lisa Wiggins (*White Queen/Mouse*) Mike was a black lab with an old soul and would most likely be sitting by a lake wearing an old

lucky fishing hat. He would tell me to not take things too seriously.



About the Author

Lewis Carroll (b. 1832–d. 1898)

Lewis Carroll grew up on a farm in Cheshire, England. His real name was Charles Dodgson. The name Lewis Carroll was a “pen name,” one that he used only as an author of children’s books. On the farm, he showed a great imagination and loved inventing games and puppet shows to amuse his brothers and sisters.

Admitted to Oxford University at 17, he earned a degree in mathematics. During his time at college, he made friends with the dean, Henry Liddell and his family. The Alice stories are said to have begun when Carroll was out on a picnic with the Liddell family, which included a daughter named Alice. During a rainstorm, he entertained the children with a story about a little girl who fell down a rabbit hole. Alice Liddell enjoyed the story so much, she begged him to write it down, which he did.

In all, he wrote over 300 works, but the two most famous were *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*. Since their publication in 1865 and 1872, they have been translated into nearly 100 languages including Swahili, Japanese, Afrikaans, and Esperanto, and have never gone out of print.

Think About It!

Samuel Clemens wrote stories using the pen name Mark Twain. You may have heard of Dr. Seuss, but do you know his real name, Theodor Geisel? If you were to write a book, what pen name would you choose for yourself?

After the Show: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Now that you’ve seen the show, here are some new things to think about!

Our set designer is Nicholas Amundson and Wonderland comes from his imagination.

- When Alice entered Wonderland, how did the setting change? What about it looked like our world? How was it different from everyday life?
- If you fell down the rabbit hole, what would your Wonderland look like?
- What creatures would be there? What adventures would they lead you on?
- The Queen of Hearts loves croquet and plays with a flamingo for a mallet. What game would you play in your Wonderland and what would the equipment look like?

When Alice drinks the potion, she becomes very small.

- If you were to become incredibly small, what would the world look like to you?
- What are some things you could do that you cannot do now? What would be the most dangerous part of being teeny?
- If you were to grow taller than tall, what is something you could do that you cannot do now? Think of some of the problems your large size might create for you.

Teatime

The Mad Hatter and March Hare invited Alice to a very confusing tea party.

The story of *Alice in Wonderland* was written in England where tea is served at 4:00 PM. Teatime was created in the middle of the eighteenth century, when there were only two meals: breakfast and a late dinner. Tea was a lighter meal, designed to give people a rest and a little food to tide them over until dinner.

A traditional afternoon tea menu typically features an arrangement of finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and jam, and a selection of cakes and pastries, all served with tea.



Here are some rules, or “etiquette,” regarding teatime.

1. Place your napkin on your lap.
2. One should eat the sandwiches first, followed by scones, and then the cakes. Avoid dunking scones or pastries into your tea.
3. Take small sips and avoid slurping, and do not swish the tea around in your mouth like a mouthwash.
4. Hold your teacup by the handle with thumb and index finger meeting in the handle and keep your saucer on the table unless standing or moving.
5. Stir tea in a back-and-forth motion, avoiding circular motions, and place spoon on the saucer to the side of the cup.

During tea, guests are encouraged to engage in interesting conversation. Perhaps the next time you are at tea, you can start by talking about this play!

You Will Never See a Real Cheshire Cat or Dodo Bird

There is not a breed of cat known as Cheshire. “Grinning like a Cheshire Cat” was a common phrase in Lewis Carroll’s day. It means one who shows their teeth and gums when laughing. Lewis Carroll grew up in Cheshire, England, and the character of the Cheshire Cat is a product of his imagination.



You will also never see a Dodo bird, but that is because it is extinct. That means there are no more left in the world. In fact, it is not known precisely what a Dodo looked

like since it existed before cameras. We do know that these birds only lived in one place, the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. It was a flightless bird and it probably died because it could not escape the cats, dogs, and pigs brought by the sailors who made the island their home in the 1600s. From paintings we know that the Dodo bird stood nearly three feet tall and weighed about 50 pounds. Its wings were stubby and its beak was hooked.



Real or Imaginary?

Which of these creatures live or have lived on Earth, and which are imaginary?

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Dinosaur | 7. Jackalope |
| 2. Unicorn | 8. Stork |
| 3. Dragon | 9. Passenger Pigeon |
| 4. Axolotl | 10. Phoenix |
| 5. Tasmanian Tiger | 11. Megalodon |
| 6. Gryphon | 12. Basilisk |

Anthropomorphism (an-thro-puh-more-fizz-um)

Anthropomorphism is a long word which means to give human traits to animals and other creatures. Whether it was a cat, a bird or a rabbit, Lewis Carroll imagined what it would be like if it were possible for animals to walk, dress, and talk like people. He took some behaviors of the animals to create their characters. For instance, rabbits are skittish and easily scared so it makes perfect sense that the White Rabbit would be frightened of being late.

Our costume designer is Angela Lampe, and the look of the creatures comes from her imagination. We know that the *Alice in Wonderland* creatures walk and talk like humans, but they still have to have some of their animal characteristics. Describe a Wonderland creature and tell what was more human and what was more animal.

Imagine It

Create your own character for Wonderland and draw it below. Start with an animal and make a list of ways in which it normally behaves. Then think about how that animal might behave as a human. What would it wear? What would it say to Alice? Which Wonderland creatures would it have as friends?



The background of the entire page is a light blue gradient. In the top left corner, there is a green glass bottle with a yellow label that says "drink me" in a cursive font. In the top right corner, there is a blue and white checkered flag and several red and pink liquid droplets. In the bottom left corner, there is a yellow clock face with Roman numerals and a blue and white checkered flag. In the bottom right corner, there is a white teacup with a pink liquid splash and a pink rectangular object with a heart shape. The text "Alice in Wonderland" is centered in the middle of the page. "Alice" is in a large, bold, black font. "in" is in a smaller, white font inside a red heart shape. "Wonderland" is in a large, bold, black font. Below "Wonderland" is the word "AUTOGRAPHS" in a medium-sized, bold, pink font.

Alice **Wonderland**

AUTOGRAPHS