

Alice in Wonderland: Writing Assignments

This unit is divided into four readings. You will need to write on three of the four (you select). Select one prompt from each reading of your choice and write a complete, coherent, and correct paragraph. You do not have to answer all of the questions asked within each topic; they are there only to help generate ideas. You must hand in a complete paragraph, typed and double-spaced, for three of the four assignments, but you must hand in the paragraph on the day we are discussing those pages. This paragraph must be at least half a page, double-spaced, Times, 12 points, standard margins, printed BEFORE class. If this is not the case, I will ask you to correct and resubmit (and risk getting your assignment lost in the vortex of the unknown). Each paragraph is worth 10 points. **NO PLOT SUMMARY!**

Reading Assignment 1 pages 1-42 (due 3/21)

1. Write one paragraph characterizing Alice. What is she like? What kinds of things does she do? Are they logical? Illogical? Childish? Grownup? What kind of language does she use? How does she interact with others? Use quotes or examples from the text to support your assertions.
2. Discuss the animals Alice encounters in these first chapters. Do they remind you of anything or anybody? If so, why? How do they interact with each other? How do they interact with Alice?
3. Look at Alice's issues. She is big, she is little, she is lost, she is dazed and confused. Discuss how her mental state is reflected in her physical state (or the other way around).
4. Creative piece: if you select this, you must write a FULL PAGE! Create a new character or expand on an existing one. Rewrite a scene with this new voice.
5. Free topic: write on any topic that comes to mind associated with this reading.

Reading Assignment 2: Chapters 5-7, pages 43-80 (due 3/23)

1. Characterize the caterpillar. What is he like? What is Alice like around him? Do you think he has a purpose? If so, what? If not, why is he here?
2. Examine the Mad Tea Party. What are the elements of insanity or anger that are present? What are the puns and plays with words? What is Carroll making fun of here? How is Alice handling it?
3. At the Queen's lawn party there is chaos. Rules are made and broken all over the place. Who makes the rules, who breaks the rules, what does this imply? What are Alice's feelings about the situation? How does she handle it and what does that say about her?

4. Creative piece: if you select this, you must write a FULL PAGE! Create a new character or expand on an existing one. Rewrite a scene with this new voice.
5. Free topic: write on any topic that comes to mind associated with this reading.

Reading Assignment 3: Chapters 8-9, pages 81-105 (due 3/30)

1. Look at the Mock Turtle chapter. Examine the puns and word play and discuss several of them and tell how they work. Why would Carroll use so many in these particular chapters?
2. These chapters spend a lot of time ridiculing school. What elements can you identify? What aspects of school are being satirized?
3. Create your own satire making fun of an institution (like school, the government, organized religion). Use puns and word play to enhance your wit.
4. Creative piece: if you select this, you must write a FULL PAGE! Create a new character or expand on an existing one. Rewrite a scene with this new voice.
5. Free topic: write on any topic that comes to mind associated with this reading.

Reading Assignment 4: Chapters 10-12 (due Friday, April 1)

1. Some people think this text is a coming of age piece. Agree or disagree with this and provide evidence to show that Alice has/has not changed.
2. Characterize Alice at the end of the book. How has she changed? Identify characteristics that demonstrate this. If she hasn't changed, identify characteristics that have stayed the same.
3. Examine this text as an allegory or parody. If it's an allegory, what is being analyzed and compared? If it's a parody, what is being ridiculed?
4. Creative piece: if you select this, you must write a FULL PAGE! Create a new character or expand on an existing one. Rewrite a scene with this new voice.
5. Free topic: write on any topic that comes to mind associated with this reading.