

FELBERG YOUNG ENGLISH READERS



# Alice in Wonderland

# Alicja w krainie czarów



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Warsaw 2005

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Publishing House, 2005

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Printed in Poland  
ISBN 83-88667-48-3

## Prologue




**I**t was a hot afternoon. Alice was sitting next to her sister in the garden, under a tree. The girls were telling each other stories about their cat Dinah. Suddenly Alice saw a white rabbit running close by her. The Rabbit stopped, took a watch out of his pocket, looked at it, and then hurried on. Alice ran after him. She saw the Rabbit pop down a rabbit-hole under a big tree. The girl jumped into the hole after him.

The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel and then dropped suddenly down like a deep well. While falling, Alice had time to look around her. She noticed that the sides of the well were filled with cupboards and bookshelves full of jars, lamps and books. Then Alice landed safely at the bottom of the rabbit-hole.

The girl jumped to her feet and looked around. She was standing alone in a long, low hall. The White Rabbit was nowhere to be seen. She walked down the hall. Suddenly she came upon a little table. There was nothing on it but a golden key. With it, the girl tried to unlock a little door hidden behind a curtain, and to her great delight the key fitted! Alice opened the door and saw a beautiful garden full of colorful flowers. But the door was so small that she could not even get her head through it.

Alice was sad when she returned to the table. She was about to put the key back on it when she saw a little bottle that had not been there before. The bottle had a label with the words "Drink me." Alice drank the contents and started to get smaller and smaller. Her face brightened. The girl knew she was now the right size to go through the little door into that lovely garden.



Alice entered the flower garden. Suddenly she saw the White Rabbit with a pair of white gloves in one hand and a fan in the other. He was in a great hurry.

“To the Duchess! To the Duchess! If I’m late I’ll be in trouble,” he muttered to himself.

When the Rabbit saw Alice, he dropped the gloves and the fan, and ran off quickly. Alice picked up the fan and gloves and walked into the garden. All of a sudden, her foot slipped and she fell into a stream. She dropped the fan and gloves.

Alice was carried away by the stream. Just then she heard something splashing about. It was a mouse that must have slipped in like herself. They were both carried to a large lake, where they saw other animals swimming about. There was a Dodo, an Elephant and a Giraffe. Finally, they all managed to get to the shore but were now dripping wet. So the Dodo suggested:

“Let’s have a race, it’s the best way to get dry.”

The Elephant and the Giraffe marked out a race-course and they all ran until they were dry. Alice won the race. The Dodo gave her a prize—a thimble, and then asked the girl to give a speech. Alice had no idea what her speech should be about, so she told them about her cat Dinah. She didn’t realize most of the animals were afraid of cats! Soon they all ran away and Alice was left alone by the lakeside.



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