

**Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll (adapted by Alice Gerstenberg)****Before reading**

- 1a** As a class, discuss which titles students think are books and which they think are nonsense poems and encourage them to say why (the nonsense poems have invented words in the title).
- 1b** Students read the *About the author* section to check their answers.

**Answers**

- 1** poem **2** poem **3** book **4** book
- 2** Read the definition aloud, ignoring the gaps. Make sure students understand *nonsense*. Students work alone to complete the definition.

**Answers**

- 1** sense **2** don't **3** words **4** normal **5** meaning
- 3** Students now work in pairs to discuss the questions. If they need extra support predicting who the three characters are, encourage them to look at clues in the words to help them.

**Answers**

- 1** A hatter is someone who makes hats. A hare is a kind of large rabbit. A dormouse is a kind of large mouse.
- 2** A tea party is a gathering where people drink tea and eat food, usually sandwiches and cake.
- 3** The situation is strange for two reasons 1) it is a strange collection of animals/people 2) there are animals having a tea party

**While reading**

- 1** Students read the extract and circle the correct answers. They can check answers in pairs before checking as a class.

**Answers**

- 1** isn't **2** is lots of **3** isn't any **4** The Hatter
- 5** doesn't give **6** his watch
- 2** Ask students to answer the questions. When you check answers, ask them to tell you the part of the extract where they found the answer.
- Answers**
- 1** Because she sits down without being asked.
- 2** Because it's a personal remark.
- 3** Because they have put some butter and crumbs inside it.
- 3** Look at the examples in the table together. Students then work in pairs and list more things they think make sense and don't make sense.

**Suggested answers**

**Makes sense:** The March Hare tells Alice it's rude to sit down without being invited

**Doesn't make sense:** There is lots of room at the table but they tell Alice there's no room; they offer food but there is none, the Hatter tells Alice her hair needs cutting (twice), then tells her a riddle (which may or may not have an answer), the Dormouse speaks but is still asleep; the Hatter and March Hare have put butter and crumbs inside the Hatter's watch

**After reading**

- 1a** In groups, students discuss and answer the questions.

**Answers**

- 1** b **2** a **3** c **4** d
- 1b** In the same groups, give students time to consider the riddle. Elicit any ideas and point out that, in the story, there is no answer to this riddle.
- 1c** Ask students to stay in their groups and have them discuss the riddles. If they find it difficult to solve them, you could put the answers on the board in jumbled order (see below).

**Answers**

- 1** rain **2** your age **3** a clock

**CULTURAL INFORMATION**

The Mad Hatter's tea party is a key scene. The flipped sentences show how illogical and strange language is. It also focuses on the major theme of growing up: Alice is at a very grown-up event and meets some very argumentative creatures, but responds in a grown-up way. The Hatter and March Hare's pointless conversations represent a long and boring teatime that a young Victorian children had to endure.

**Note:** the name March Hare comes from the phrase as mad as a March hare which refers to the kind of strange behaviour that hares show in the month of March.

- 2** Students work in pairs to think of a situation and two characters for their own scene. Point out they should think of things about the situation that don't make sense. If necessary, pair less confident students with more confident classmates, or allow them to work in small groups to plan their scene.
- 3** Students now write a short scene where the two characters meet, including the things that don't make sense and one or more of the riddles from above. Monitor and help with language and ideas as needed. Invite confident pairs to act out their scene to the rest of the class.

**EXTRA ACTIVITY**

Students find a copy of *Alice in Wonderland* on the Internet (e.g. Project Gutenberg) and read another scene. Alternatively, students could find information about Alice Liddell (who Alice is based on).