Prestwick House
Response Journal™

Sample

Click here to learn more about this Response Journal!

Click here to find more Classroom Resources for this title!

Prestwick House

More from Prestwick House

Literature
Literary Touchstone Classics
Literature Teaching Units

Grammar and Writing
College and Career Readiness: Writing
Grammar for Writing

Vocabulary
Vocabulary Power Plus
Vocabulary from Latin and Greek Roots

Reading
Reading Informational Texts
Reading Literature

Prestwick House

Response Journal

Reflections: A Student Response Journal

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Lewis Carroll

Prestwick House

Copyright © 2001 by Prestwick House, Inc., P.O. Box 658, Clayton, DE 19938.
1-800-932-4593 • www.prestwickhouse.com
Permission to copy this unit for classroom use is extended to purchaser for his or her personal use. This material, in whole or part, may not be copied for resale.

ISBN 978-1-58049-973-6
Item No. 201025

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection–that is, stopping to think about what you are reading–that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

© Copyright 2002, Prestwick House, Inc.

Pre-Reading

1. Some editions of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* include a poem that introduces the story and begins with the line "All in the Golden Afternoon…" and/or one titled "Christmas Greetings" before Chapter I. If the edition you are using includes one or both of these poems, read them, and note the rhyming pattern(s). Then, create your own poem using the same rhyming pattern as the poem or one of the poems. Your poem can be about any subject you choose.

Chapter I: Down the Rabbit-Hole

2. At the beginning of the book, Alice is bored while sitting by her sister, who is reading. Alice isn't interested in the book. "…what is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations?" Using only this characterization, how old do you suppose Alice is? What made you come to that conclusion? Why are pictures and conversations in a book helpful? How can they be a deterrent to the reader? Answer these questions in a paragraph or two.

3. Alice isn't surprised when she hears the rabbit speak but is fascinated that he has a watch and a waistcoat-pocket. If someone traveled through time and came to live with your family, what would seem normal? What things would amaze him or her? Make a list of at least 5 examples of each.

4. One of Alice's more endearing traits is the way she makes mistakes about factual things, and even though she realizes it, she does not let this bother her. A good example of this can be found when she says, "…I wonder what latitude or longitude I've got to?" She has not the faintest idea of what either of these words means and uses them only because she "thought they were nice grand words to say."

   Find two other examples of things about which Alice is mistaken in this chapter. Explain what Alice's mistakes are in your own words.

© Copyright 2002, Prestwick House, Inc.

10. Alice realizes she has put on one of the White Rabbit's gloves: "How *can* I have done that?" she thought. "I must be growing small again." She got up and went to the table to measure herself by it and found that, as nearly as she could guess, she was now about two feet high and continuing to shrink rapidly.

    Think about the advantages and disadvantages of shrinking from your current height to Alice's current height of two feet. Make a two-column chart. Label one column "Pros," and list what you think would be positive aspects of being that small. Label the other column "Cons," and list what you think would be the negative aspects.

11. In an attempt to make conversation with the Mouse, Alice, unfortunately, tells him about her cat, Dinah, and he gets very upset. Clearly, Alice didn't mean to bring up such an unpleasant subject; she just began talking about the first thing she thought the Mouse might understand. If she had taken more time to think about how to initiate the conversation, she could have chosen a more neutral subject.

    It can be difficult and awkward to start a conversation with someone we've just met. Think of something Alice could have said to introduce herself and talk to the mouse about that would have resulted in a more pleasant outcome. Write a dialogue of at least half a page between Alice and the Mouse.

© Copyright 2002, Prestwick House, Inc.

Chapter IX: The Mock Turtle's Story

40. When the Duchess and Alice meet at the beginning of this chapter, the Duchess continually preaches to Alice about the "moral" of this or that statement she makes. Choose one of the following morals given by the Duchess, and write a paragraph describing what you think it means and why you believe it to be true or false.

    "Oh, 'tis love, 'tis love, that makes the world go round!"
    "Birds of a feather flock together."
    "The more there is of mine, the less there is of yours."

41. The Mock Turtle's explanation of his schooling, though nonsensical, is very entertaining. Many of the Mock Turtle's statements are puns. A pun is a type of play on words. For example, the Mock Turtle says that he and the other turtles used to call their teacher "Tortoise" because he "taught us." Note that "Tortoise" and "taught us," when said aloud, have almost the same sound. Make a list of at least three other puns that the Mock Turtle makes in this chapter. Beside each, write an ordinary word or phrase that could fit the meaning the Mock Turtle had in mind. Using the above example as a model, your list should look something like this:

    1. Tortoise—taught us

42. After listening to the Mock Turtle brag about his schooling, Alice tells him that she, too, has gone to school. Keeping in mind Alice's remarks about her school, relate to a friend your feelings about the school you attend. In your conversation, describe your school, which classes and/or subjects you like the best, and which you like least, etc. Begin your description with:

    Compared to the wacky school the Mock Turtle is talking about, my school is…

43. The Gryphon is an unusual beast. Look up the word *gryphon* (or its alternate spelling, *griffin*) on the Internet or other source, and write a short report about it.

© Copyright 2002, Prestwick House, Inc.

52. The White Rabbit presents a mysterious letter that has just been discovered. The King believes that the Knave wrote it, but the Knave denies it. The King proceeds to interpret the letter. How do you interpret the letter? Carefully review the verses, and copy them onto a piece of paper. Then, next to them, write down what you think they mean.

53. When the King tells the jury to consider the verdict, the Queen says, "No, no!… Sentence first—verdict afterward." This seems ridiculous when she says it, but we often decide how we will treat someone based on appearance, before we know anything about him or her.

    Write about a time when your first impression of someone turned out to be wrong. What prompted you to make that initial judgment? What happened to change your mind? If you have never experienced this situation, you can choose to write about one you've seen in a movie, TV show, or read in a book.

54. Do you think the Knave of Hearts is guilty or innocent? Imagine that you are either the prosecuting attorney at the trial or the defense attorney. If you choose to be the prosecutor, write a closing argument explaining why the Knave is guilty of stealing the Queen's tarts. If you decide to be the defense attorney, write a closing argument persuading the jury that the Knave is innocent. Make your closing argument at least two paragraphs long.

55. On the riverbank, after Alice runs off to her home, her sister begins to think of the adventures Alice has told her about. She seems to be having a little dream of her own about it. The last paragraph in the story shows the deep feelings Alice's sister has about Alice and how she imagines Alice will be as a grown woman.

    Relate your thoughts about the life you think Alice will have ahead of her and what she will be like fifteen years after the book's conclusion. Include whether you think she will be married, have any children, still be a dreamy sort of person, still be bossy, and whether you think she will be happy.

© Copyright 2002, Prestwick House, Inc.