

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll (Published in 1865)

Approved for use in all levels of English IV.

Summary of the Work:

By falling down a rabbit hole and stepping through a mirror, Alice experiences unusual adventures with a variety of nonsensical characters. Throughout her adventures she learns about herself and grows into an assertive, decisive young woman. However, what most readers do not realize is that the entire story is a political satire and commentary about life in the Victorian Era of England. Through these nonsensical characters and bizarre scenarios, Carroll illuminates some of the absurdities about Victorian etiquette, education, and the aristocracy.

Rationale:

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is the perfect novel to teach the concepts of political satire, and the genre of fantasy and literary nonsense. Students are immediately engaged in the story with its unique style and bizarre characters. Students also enjoy learning about the Victorian Era and its rules of etiquette. Moreover, it easily lends itself to many creative writing activities, and discussion of class systems and how rules of etiquette can cause divisiveness and resentment among the classes.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

Horn Book starred (September, 1992)

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

- Wilson's Children 11/1/96
- Book Links (A.L.A.) 7/1/95

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 980
- Readability Level: 6.9

Learning Resources Guidelines:

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: [\(link\)](#)

Approval:

Submitted to Committee:

Approved for Adoption: 1979

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

The novel is a true classic that remains a favorite of readers of all ages.

Connection to the Curriculum:

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland demonstrates the elements of satire and literary nonsense in a piece of writing that is accessible to all students. Elements of the Victorian Era are all critically examined in Carroll's playful novel.

Additional Connections:

(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)