

# The Alice Sound



## **FASHION & DRESS (I)**

ART & DESIGN RESOURCES

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LSO London Symphony Orchestra

Queen Mary University of London

## FASHION & DRESS (I): UPDATING ALICE

What the characters wear is important. It tells us about what they are like and what is happening in the story. For instance, the fact that the White Rabbit is *dressed* rather than talking is what sets the whole chain of events off in the first place. And what the White Rabbit is wearing (or not wearing!) is also very important at the end. In the picture to the right which comes right at the end of the first book, we can just see him hopping off without any clothes at all.

Alice is waking up, returning to a world where rabbits don't wear waistcoats!



Alice herself was dressed like a standard Victorian child from a comfortable home.

In the images below you can see Alice in *Wonderland* (1865), *Looking-Glass* (1871) and then the *Nursery Alice* (1890, a shorter version of *Wonderland* for very young children).

**Can you spot the differences between the outfits Alice is wearing?**



Continued on next page →

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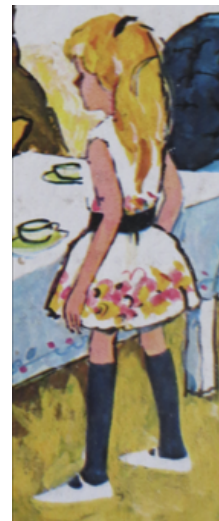


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Why were these changes made? Alice is roughly the same age in each of the books but several years had passed between the publication of the books. During this time, the kinds of things that children were wearing had also changed. Carroll didn't want Alice looking old-fashioned so Tenniel makes these changes to keep her up to date.

Later illustrators would also do this. In the images below, you can see how artists have changed her appearance and dress to bring her up to date. Which is your favourite?



Top row (left to right): K.M.R (1908), D.R.Sexton (1933), T.H.Robinson (1922), Gordon Robinson (1910), Willy Pogany (1929). Bottom row (left to right): A.L.Bowley (1921), unknown, Frans Haacken (1968), Ted Schroeder (1970), Helen Oxenbury (1999). With kind permission from Helen Oxenbury.

## TASK:

If you were drawing Alice today, what would she look like and what would she be wearing? Design an outfit for her.