

The Alice Sound



PICTURING ALL SCENES

ART & DESIGN RESOURCES

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PICTURING SCENES

John Tenniel didn't provide illustrations for everything that happens to Alice. For example, when Alice falls down the rabbit hole and then the well in *Wonderland* we can read about it but we can't see it. In *Looking-Glass*, before reaching the Garden of Live Flowers, Alice has a lot of problems trying to get away from the house and up a hill with a moving path!

TASK:

Before reading the passages which deal with these events, do a quick sketch of how you imagine them based on the brief description above.

Now read the passages:

'The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well.

Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly, for she had plenty of time as she went down to look about her and to wonder what was going to happen next. First, she tried to look down and make out what she was coming to, but it was too dark to see anything; then she looked at the sides of the well, and noticed that they were filled with cupboards and book-shelves; here and there she saw maps and pictures hung upon pegs. She took down a jar from one of the shelves as she passed; it was labelled "ORANGE MARMALADE", but to her great disappointment it was empty: she did not like to drop the jar for fear of killing somebody underneath, so managed to put it into one of the cupboards as she fell past it.

"Well!" thought Alice to herself, "after such a fall as this, I shall think nothing of tumbling down stairs! How brave they'll all think me at home! Why, I wouldn't say anything about it, even if I fell off the top of the house!" (Which was very likely true.) (*Wonderland*, chapter 1)

"I should see the garden far better," said Alice to herself, "if I could get to the top of that hill: and here's a path that leads straight to it—at least, no, it doesn't do that—" (after going a few yards along the path, and turning several sharp corners), "but I suppose it will at last. But how curiously it twists! It's more like a corkscrew than a path! Well, this turn goes to the hill, I suppose—no, it doesn't! This goes straight back to the house! Well then, I'll try it the other way."

And so she did: wandering up and down, and trying turn after turn, but always coming back to the house, do what she would. Indeed, once, when she turned a corner rather more quickly than usual, she ran against it before she could stop herself.

"It's no use talking about it," Alice said, looking up at the house and pretending it was arguing with her.' (*Looking-Glass*, chapter 2)

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“I’m not going in again yet. I know I should have to get through the Looking-glass again—back into the old room—and there’d be an end of all my adventures!”

So, resolutely turning her back upon the house, she set out once more down the path, determined to keep straight on till she got to the hill. For a few minutes all went on well, and she was just saying, “I really shall do it this time—” when the path gave a sudden twist and shook itself (as she described it afterwards), and the next moment she found herself actually walking in at the door.

“Oh, it’s too bad!” she cried. “I never saw such a house for getting in the way! Never!”

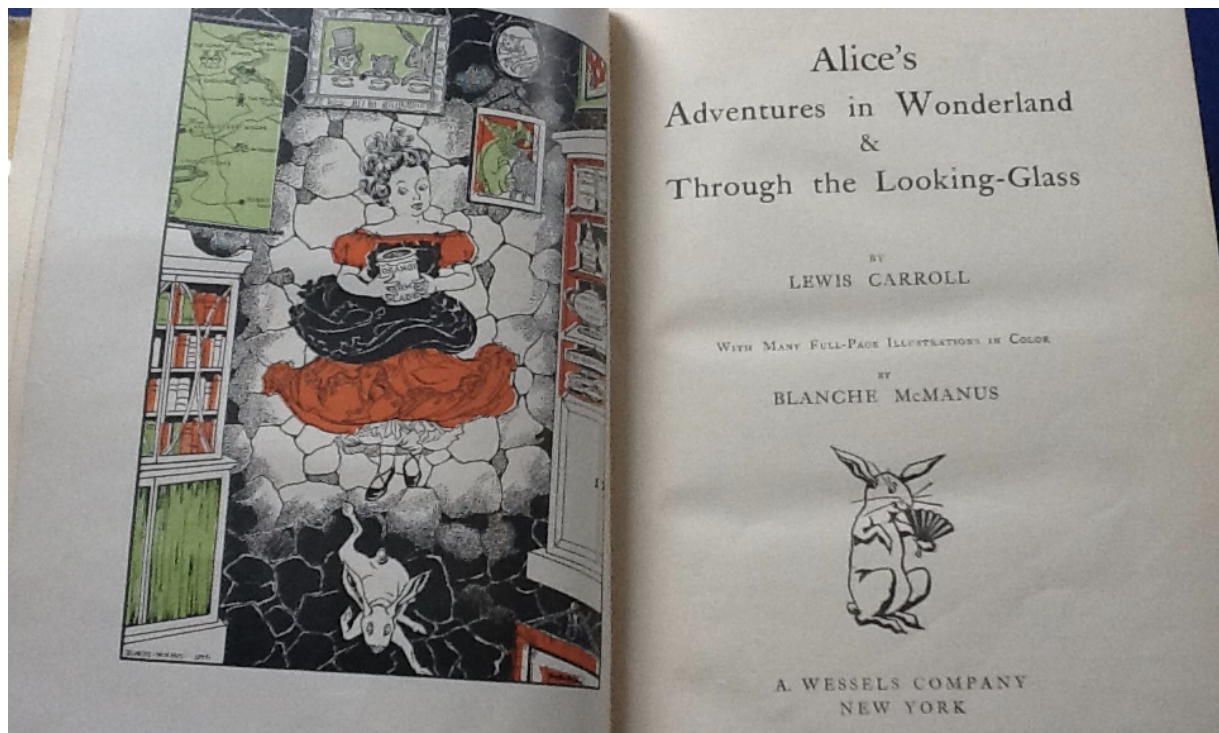
However, there was the hill full in sight, so there was nothing to be done but start again. This time she came upon a large flower-bed, with a border of daisies, and a willow-tree growing in the middle.’
(*Looking-Glass*, chapter 2)

How do your sketches compare with what you have read?

TASK:

Now re- read the Wonderland extract and either:

- Draw or produce a collage of the maps and pictures which Alice sees hanging on the well wall as she falls, OR
- Draw Alice as she falls - perhaps you could do a comic strip of her entering and then falling?
Blanch McManus’s illustration from 1896 below might inspire you!



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TASK:

Read the Looking Glass extract and either

- produce a comic strip of this scene or
- draw your own looking glass house

Some images by illustrators who, unlike Tenniel, have illustrated this scene, might give you some ideas:



Gavin O'Keefe (2010), left; John Vernon Lord (2009), right. With permission of the artists.