

ghost
writer™

FUN
AND
PUZZLES

DONNA'S JOURNAL

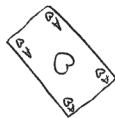


Alice is so cool — kind, great style, friendly; we would definitely be friends in real life. Naturally, I wanted to know all about her book. Here's what I found out:



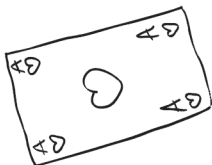
Alice is based on a real girl!
Her name was Alice Liddell,
and she was the daughter of
Lewis Carroll's friend.

Alice's Adventures
in Wonderland was
written by Lewis
Carroll and published
in 1865. It was a
huge success! (It
basically went viral
before viral even
existed.)



Lewis Carroll is a made-up name. That's called a pseudonym. The author's real name was Charles Lutwidge Dodgson.





Lewis Carroll couldn't decide
on a title. He almost called it:
Alice's Hour in Elfland
Alice's Adventure Under Ground
Alice Among the Fairies
I think Alice's Adventures in
Wonderland sounds much better!!!!
Dreamy, right?

Lewis Carroll didn't plan
on becoming an author. He
taught math at a university.
He made up the story of
Wonderland to tell Alice and
her two sisters on a boating
trip they took together. After
Alice kept asking him to tell
it again and again, two years
later, he finally wrote it down
as a book.



The tree the Cheshire
Cat sits in is based on
a tree in the real
Alice's backyard.

The original hand-
written manuscript is
at the British Museum
in London. (Can you
say field trip for tea
time?)



Curtis's Mirror Message



Hey! Did you know that Lewis Carroll loved puzzles? Sometimes he'd send mirror-message letters to his friends. They had to hold the paper up to a mirror to decode his messages.

Can you read my letter? (Try holding it up to a mirror.)

CURTIS
WHY? WHO IS IT? WE NEED TO FIND OUT!
THERE'S A GHOST HAUNTING THE BOOKSTORE!
ANNONIH

Mirror messages are trickier than just writing backwards. In a mirror, most letters look very different. C looks like Ɔ, and S looks like Ƨ. But some letters don't change at all. O and T and A look the same in a mirror. Do you know why? They're symmetrical. That means that if you draw a line down the center of the letter, they look the same on either side.

Letters	Mirror Images
A	A
B	B
C	C
D	D
E	E
F	F
G	G
H	H
I	I
J	J
K	K
L	L
M	M
N	N
O	O
P	P
Q	Q
R	R
S	S
T	T
U	U
V	V
W	W
X	X
Y	Y
Z	Z

Practice mirror-writing the alphabet on a piece of paper. Next, try writing your name. Don't forget to start on the right side of the page, instead of the left.

Now write your own mirror message! You can send it to your friend, your brother or sister, or even your teacher.

Chevon's Curiouser and Curiouser Quiz



Let's just say there's never been a time when I wasn't curious. I've also never met a quiz I didn't like. Now that you've read the book, test your knowledge with my Curiouser and

Curiouser Quiz!

1. How does Alice travel to Wonderland?
 - a. through a wardrobe
 - b. down a rabbit hole
 - c. on a magic school bus
 - d. in a spaceship
2. Alice tastes many flavors when she drinks from the bottle labeled DRINK ME. What does she *not* taste?
 - a. lemonade
 - b. soda
 - c. vanilla
 - d. hot chocolate
3. What color roses does the Queen hate?
 - a. red

b. white

c. pink

d. yellow

4. Who is the judge in the trial?

a. the Mad Hatter

b. the White Rabbit

c. the Queen of Hearts

d. the King of Hearts

5. In the book, what is the answer to the riddle “Why is a raven like a writing desk?”

a. There is no answer.

b. They both have wings.

c. They are both black.

d. Neither can stand on its head.

6. Which of these animals does Alice meet first?

a. Bill the lizard

b. the Caterpillar

c. the Dodo

d. the Dormouse

Answers on page 104.

Ruben's Scramble



In Wonderland, everything is all mixed up and turned around. That's exactly how I felt when I moved to a new town and a new school. Nothing made sense at first. I was like a stranger in a strange land. (And that was on *top* of there being a ghost in my Grandpa's bookstore!)

Can you unscramble the letters below to find the names of six characters in the book?

CELRAPTRIAL _____

CHERIESH ACT _____

SUCSHED _____

DAM THEART _____

HIETW BARBTI _____

MORDOSUE _____

Answers on page 104.

The Curtis Challenge



Drumroll, please. It's time for my ultimate challenge. See how many smaller words you can make from the letters in **WONDERLAND**.

Here are a few words to get you started:

now, owl, dear, ladder

Write your answers on a piece of paper or type them on a computer. All words must be 3 or more letters. Can you score **20 points**?

Here's how to keep score

Each 3-letter word = 1 point

Each 4-letter word = 2 points

Each 5-letter word = 3 points

Each word with 6 letters or more = 4 points

Chevon's Amazing Definition Game



"You should say what you mean," the Mad Hatter says at the tea party, and Alice says, "I mean what I say!" You know what? Sometimes I come across a word while I'm reading and

have no idea what it means. I know, I know. I should just look it up (that's what I would tell myself to do) but I came up with another way to learn the words. My amazing definition game!

See if you can choose the correct word to complete each sentence.

1. Owwww! I hate getting pricked with a sharp needle when I sew. Now I wear a little metal cap called a _____ to protect my finger.

- a. thimble
- b. bramble
- c. beret

2. In class today, when I tried to give a book report, search through my backpack for a pencil, and tie my shoelace all at the same time, I felt very _____.

- a. itchy
- b. peaceful
- c. discombobulated

3. I bowed to the _____ when she visited because she was royalty. She ranked one level below the king and queen.

- a. principal
- b. duchess
- c. captain

4. Have you ever seen a _____? The fast-running, long-eared animal looks like a large rabbit.

- a. hare
- b. sloth
- c. kitten

5. My aunt bakes small biscuit-like cakes called _____ and serves them with raspberry jam.

- a. tacos
- b. scones
- c. ziti

6. _____ is a sticky, sweet syrup that's similar to honey.

- a. Mustard
- b. Coffee
- c. Treacle

7. My brother Curtis rules on the basketball court, but when we play _____, a game where players use a mallet to knock a ball through a hoop, I always win.

- a. croquet
- b. cricket
- c. badminton

8. A _____ is a tiny mammal covered with sharp spines that protect it from predators. For protection, it can roll itself into a tight, prickly ball!

- a. rhinoceros
- b. Komodo dragon
- c. hedgehog

9. The group of people who decide the outcome (or the *verdict*) of a trial is called a _____.

- a. gaggle
- b. jury
- c. team

10. At first, my brother _____ at Donna when she said Alice had come out of the book. Later, he apologized for dismissing her and making fun of the idea.

- a. whispered
- b. scoffed
- c. gargled

0–2 correct: **Time to try again.** Here's a hint: look for context clues in the sentences.

3–6 correct: **Good job!** You're on your way to being a true Word Warrior.

7–9 correct: **Vocab victory!** You're the Word Wizard!

10 correct: **Wow!** Now I know why you're called the Walking Dictionary!

Answers on page 104.

Donna Gets Crafty: Playing Card People



I liked how the Queen had a playing card crew. In her royal court, the hearts are the royal family, the spades are the gardeners, the diamonds are noble people, and the clubs are the soldiers.

I designed my own crew then lined them up my desk. Now when I'm doing homework, it's like my own personal cheering squad! You can make playing card people too—just follow my easy directions.

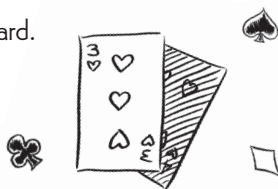


What you need:

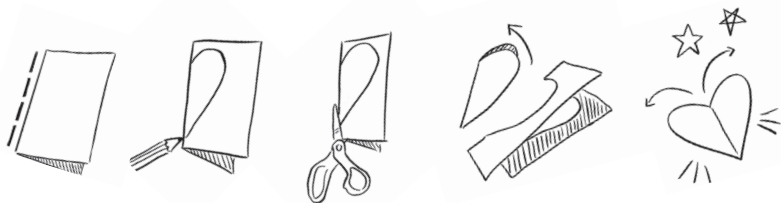
- a deck of cards
- red construction paper
- red pipe cleaners
- scissors
- a black marker
- a pencil
- glue



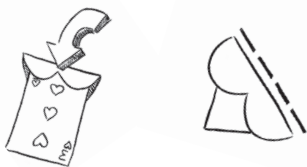
1. Choose a heart playing card.



2. Cut a large heart a little bit larger than your playing card from the red construction paper. The easiest way to do this is to fold the paper in half. With your pencil, draw a half-heart shape along the folded edge. Cut on the line, then open your paper, and you'll have a perfect heart.



3. Fold the rounded tops of the heart down over the front of the playing card.



4. Cut a red pipe cleaner in half. Slip one half underneath the fold. Glue the card and pipe cleaner in place and let them dry.



5. Bend the pipe cleaner to make the arms.

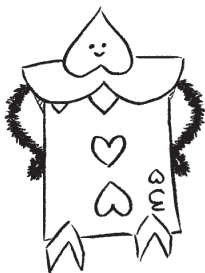


6. Cut a small heart from the red construction paper. Turn it upside down and glue it to the top center of the playing card. Use the black marker to draw a face on the upside-down



I made a few cards from every group, then lined them up to alternate so they create a cool pattern; heart, spade, heart, spade, and diamond, club, diamond, club. —Curtis

7. To make the feet, cut two small squares the same size out of the red construction paper. Fold each one in half. Use your scissors to cut a small notch into each fold. Slip the playing card into each notch to make your card stand up.



I cut speech bubbles from white paper, then attached them to my card people's mouths. Every card had something to say, just like in my favorite graphic novels.

—Ruben

I decorated my card people with LOTS of glitter. More is more when it comes to sparkles!

—Donna

Ruben's Reading List



If you liked *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, I made a list of books you'll also enjoy. (Okay, okay, I'm going to fess up. It's not really *my* reading list. I had my grandpa help me.

He owns Village Books, and he's a total book expert.)

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Furthermore by Tahereh Mafi

The Serpent's Secret by Sayantani DasGupta

The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making by Catherynne M. Valente

The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell by Chris Colfer

Dragons in a Bag by Zetta Elliott

Donna's Story Starter



Reading about Alice's enchanted adventure makes me want to write a story, but I don't know what it should be about. Has this ever happened to you? My teacher once told me that

one way to come up with a good story idea is to start with the words "*What if...*?"

Here's a "*what if...*" just for you!

In Wonderland, Alice drinks a potion from a bottle and shrinks. What if you suddenly became tiny? What adventures would you have?



Ghostwriter's Secret Message



Shhhh! Ghostwriter has a secret message just for you.

Here's how you can find it:



1. The first three words in Chapter Three: _____

2. In Chapter Two, go to the seventh word in the third paragraph: _____



3. In Chapter Five, go to the eighth word in the fourth paragraph: _____

4. In Chapter Two, find the tenth and eleventh words in the third sentence of the fourth paragraph: _____



5. In Chapter One, go to the sixth word of the first sentence: _____

6. In Chapter Six, find the second-to-last paragraph and go to the word before "head hurts": _____



7. In Chapter Seven, find the last word of the eighth paragraph: _____





Write the words in order on a piece of paper to read the
secret message:

_____....



Answers on page 104.





Answers

Curtis's Mirror Message:

HI DONNA,
THERE'S A GHOST HAUNTING THE BOOKSTORE!
WHY? WHO IS IT? WE NEED TO FIND OUT!
CURTIS

Chevon's Curiouser and Curiouser Quiz: 1. b, 2. c, 3. b, 4.
d, 5. a, 6. c

Ruben's Scramble: Caterpillar, Cheshire Cat, Duchess, Mad
Hatter, White Rabbit, Dormouse

Chevon's Amazing Definition Game: 1. a, 2. c, 3. b, 4. a, 5.
b, 6. c, 7. a, 8. c, 9. b, 10. b

Ghostwriter's Secret Message: That was fun but there's
much more to my story....