**Assessment Task for Reading**

**Topic: Alice in Wonderland**

This assessment task focuses on developing senior secondary students’ reading skills.

This set of materials contains the following:

* **The reading text**
* **A set of questions**
* **Suggested answers**

**Reading Text**

**Alice falls down a hole**

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the river bank, and of having nothing to do. Once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, "and what is the use of a book," thought Alice, "without pictures or conversations?"

So she considered in her own mind (as well as she could, for the day made her feel very sleepy and stupid), whether the pleasure of making a necklace of flowers would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the flowers, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

There was nothing so very remarkable in that, nor did Alice think it so very unusual to hear the Rabbit say to itself, "Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be too late!" But when the Rabbit actually took a watch out of the pocket in its waistcoat, looked at it and then hurried on, Alice jumped to her feet, for she immediately realised that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat, or a watch to take out of it. Being very curious, she ran across the field after it and was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole, under the hedge. In another moment, down went Alice after it!

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 what seemed to be a very deep hole indeed, for she had plenty of time to look about her. Down, down, down! Would the fall never come to an end? There was nothing else to do, so Alice soon began talking to herself. "Dinah will miss me very much to-night, I should think!" (Dinah was the cat.) "I hope they'll remember her saucer of milk at tea-time. Dinah, my dear, I wish you were down here with me!" Alice felt that she was dozing off, when suddenly, thump! thump! down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the fall was over.

Alice was not a bit hurt, and she jumped up in a moment. She looked up, but it was all dark overhead; in front of her was another long passage and the White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying down it. There was not a moment to be lost. Away went Alice like the wind and was just in time to hear it say, as it turned a corner, "Oh, my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting!" She was close behind it when she turned the corner, but the Rabbit was no longer to be seen.

She found herself in a long, low hall, which was lit up by a row of lamps hanging from the roof. There were doors all around the hall, but they were all locked; and when Alice had been all the way down one side and up the other, trying every door, she walked sadly down the middle, wondering how she was ever to get out again.

Suddenly she came upon a little table, all made of solid glass. There was nothing on it but a tiny golden key, and Alice's first idea was that this might belong to one of the doors of the hall; but, either the locks were too large, or the key was too small, and anyway it would not open any of them. However, on the second time around, she came upon a low curtain she had not noticed before, and behind it was a little door about fifteen inches high. She tried the little golden key in the lock and, to her great delight, it fitted!

Alice opened the door and found that it led into a small passage, not much larger than a rat-hole; she knelt down and looked along the passage into the loveliest garden you ever saw. How she so very much wanted to get out of that dark hall and wander about among those beds of bright flowers and those cool fountains, but she could not even get her head through the doorway. "Oh," said Alice, "how I wish I could shut up like a telescope! I think I could, if I only knew how to begin."

Alice went back to the table, half hoping she might find another key on it, or perhaps, a book of rules for shutting people up like telescopes. This time she found a little bottle on it ("which certainly was not here before," said Alice), and tied around the neck of the bottle was a paper label, with the words "DRINK ME" beautifully printed on it in large letters.

"No, I'll look first," she said, "and see whether it's marked '*poison*' or not," for she had never forgotten that, if you drink from a bottle marked "poison," it is almost certain to make you ill, sooner or later. However, this bottle was *not* marked "poison," so Alice decided to taste it, and, finding it very nice (it had a sort of mixed flavor of cherry-tart, cream, pineapple, roast chicken, candy and hot buttered toast), she very soon finished it off.

'What a curious feeling!' said Alice; 'I must be shutting up like a telescope.' Indeed, she was now only ten inches high, and her face brightened up at the thought that she was now the right size for going through the little door into that lovely garden.

After a while, finding that nothing more happened, she decided on going into the garden at once. However, when she got to the door, she found she had forgotten the little golden key and when she went back to the table for it, she found she could not possibly reach it. She could see it quite plainly through the glass, and she tried her best to climb up one of the legs of the table, but it was too slippery. When she had tired herself out with trying, poor Alice sat down and cried.

**END OF READING TEXT**

Adapted from *Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll

(1,028 words)

**Questions**

**Read the text *Alice falls down a hole* and answer questions 1-18. Blacken the circle when appropriate.**

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| 1. | What did Alice find strange about her sister’s book? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(1 mark)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 2. | Complete the table below with the words or expressions used by the writer in paragraphs 1 and 2 that match the meanings given. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(3 marks)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | **Word or expression used by the writer** | | | | **Meaning** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 3. | What surprised Alice about the White Rabbit? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(1 mark)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 4. | To what or whom does the word “it” in the first column of the table below refer? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(4 marks)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | **Word used by the writer** | | | | **Word or phrase in the text it refers to** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | “it” (line 11) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | “it” (line 13) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | “it” (line 14) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | “it” (line 15) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 5. | In paragraph 4, why did Alice fall? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(1 mark)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 6. | The words “thump! thump!” (lines 22-23) indicate that Alice has: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(1 mark)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | A. | | reached the bottom of the hole | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | B. | | hit against the sides of the hole | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | C. | | fallen asleep | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | D. | | found some sticks and dry leaves | | | | | | A | | | B | C | | | | D |
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| 7. | Explain, in your own words, the phrase “Away went Alice like the wind” (line 26). | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(1 mark)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 8. | Complete the following sentence in your own words. *(2 marks)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | Alice walked “sadly” (line 31) down the hall because all\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | and so she did not know \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 9. | Complete the table below with the meanings of the words or expressions used by the writer in lines 33 - 36. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(3 marks)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | **Word or expression used by the writer** | | | | **Meaning** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | “came upon” (line 33) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | “belong to” (line 34) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | “noticed” (line 36) | | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 10. | How did Alice discover that the “tiny golden key” (line 34) did not belong to any of the doors in the hall? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(1 mark)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 11. | Decide if the following statements are true (T), false (F) or not stated (X). Put the appropriate symbol in the boxes below. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(3 marks)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | A. | After she discovered the tiny golden key, Alice walked around the hall three times. | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | |
|  | B. | The small door Alice found behind the curtain was made of glass. | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | |
|  | C. | The garden behind the small door had flowers, fountains and places to rest. | | | | | | | | | | | | |  | | |
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| 12. | Why could Alice not get into the garden? | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(1 mark)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 13. | Alice wishes she could “shut up like a telescope” (line 43) so that she can: *(1 mark)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | A. | | | see into the garden. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | B. | | | become smaller. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | C. | | | keep quiet. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | D. | | | find a book of rules. | | | | | A | | | B | | C | | | D |
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| 14. | Why did Alice not immediately drink the liquid in the little bottle? *(1 mark)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | A. | | | She was worried it would not taste nice. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | B. | | | She was worried it may make her ill. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | C. | | | The bottle had a label with the words “DRINK ME” around the neck. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | D. | | | The bottle was too small. | | | | A | | | B | | C | | | | D |
|  |  | | |  | | | | ⭘ | | | ⭘ | | ⭘ | | | | ⭘ |
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| 15. | Why did she drink the liquid in the bottle quickly? *(1 mark)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 16. | Complete the following sentences in your own words. *(2 marks)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | Alice had the feeling that she was “shutting up like a telescope” (line 54) because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . She was very pleased | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | because she thought she could now \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 17. | Choose two out of the five emotions below that Alice experiences in lines 57 – 61. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(2 marks)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | A. | | | Frustration | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | B. | | | Fear | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | C. | | | Jealousy | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  |  | | |  | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | D. | | | Confusion | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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|  | E. | | | Disappointment | | A | B | | | C | | | D | | | | E |
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| 18. | Why do you think that the book was titled *Alice in Wonderland*? Support your idea with two examples from the text. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|  | *(3 marks)* | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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END OF QUESTIONS

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**Suggested Answers**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. | the lack of pictures or conversations (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 2. | tired of (line 1) (1 mark)  peeped (line 2) (1 mark)  considered (line 5) (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 3. | the Rabbit was wearing a waistcoat // took a watch out of its waistcoat (pocket) (lines 9-12) (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 4. | watch (1 mark)  waistcoat (pocket) (1 mark)  (The) Rabbit/ rabbit (1 mark)  (The) Rabbit /rabbit (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 5. | the rabbit-hole dropped / dipped down (suddenly) (lines 14 and 16) (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 6. | A. (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 7. | She ran very fast (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 8. | the doors were locked (1 mark)  how to get out of the hall // how she would (ever) get out of the hall (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 9. | found // discovered // noticed // saw (1 mark)  fit // match // open (1 mark)  seen (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 10. | she tried to open (all) the doors // the key didn’t open any of the doors // the key was too small // the locks were too big (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 11. | A. F (1 mark)  B. X(1 mark)  C. X(1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 12. | she was too big / tall // the door was too small (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 13. | B. (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 14. | B. (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 15. | it tasted nice // she liked it / the taste (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 16. | she was (only) 10 inches tall/high // she had shrunk // she was smaller // she was now the right size to go through the door (1 mark)  go through the door // go into the garden (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 17. | A. (1 mark)  E. (1 mark) |
|  |  |
| 18. | The story is unbelievable / fantastic / dreamlike etc. (1 mark)  Any 2 examples related to unbelievable actions (1 mark each)  e.g. the endless rabbit-hole  the Rabbit talking / looking at his watch  the bottle having a label reading “DRINK ME”  Alice shrinking / Alice shrank after taking the bottle of liquid |

END OF SUGGESTED ANSWERS

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