

CHILDREN
FOR THE



ALICE IN Wonderland

CAST OF CHARACTERS

1. NARRATOR
2. ALICE
3. MARGARET
4. QUEEN OF HEARTS
5. KING OF HEARTS
6. KNAVE OF HEARTS
7. WHITE RABBIT
8. TWEEDLEDEE
9. TWEEDLEDUM
10. MAD HATTER
11. MARCH HARE
12. DORMOUSE
13. CHESHIRE CAT
14. BLUE CATERPILLAR
15. COOK
16. DUCHESS
17. LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD
18. MOCK TURTLE
19. CARD #1
20. CARD #2
21. CARD #3
22. CARD #4
23. CARD #5

*Some characters may be doubled and script
can be edited to fit cast size*

SCENE ONE

Curtain opens. WHITE RABBIT enters and paces the stage.

RABBIT: Oh dear, oh dear, oh my, my, my, my! I'm late, I'm late! I must hurry my rabbit feet as fast as I can! (*RABBIT exits. NARRATOR enters.*)

NARRATOR: Hmmm. I thought I saw a large white rabbit. Well, never mind that for now. Good afternoon, and welcome to the wonderful world of Wonderland! Today's story is going to be one that you will not soon forget. There will be many interesting characters in this story, and I believe we'll all be invited to a crazy tea party! Doesn't that sound like fun? But before we get to all of that our story begins with a little girl named Alice...

LITTLE RED enters.

LITTLE RED: Excuse me; I seem to have lost my way...

NARRATOR: Who are you?

LITTLE RED: I'm Little Red Riding Hood and I'm lost. You see I was on my way to my grandmother's house, and I kept walking and walking, and I usually can find her house, but for some reason today I'm having a little bit of trouble. Maybe I need to go see an eye doctor. Or maybe I need to find a map, or maybe I need to go get a drink of water because I've been walking and walking and I'm very thirsty and maybe...

NARRATOR: And maybe you're in the wrong story! This is the story of Alice in Wonderland and *YOU'RE* in a completely different story!

LITTLE RED: Well, maybe I could join your story and along with this Alice girl, you could help me find my way to my grandmother's house because you see there's this big bad wolf who's been trying to get me for quite a while and I'm afraid that if I go into the woods alone again he'll come after me.

NARRATOR: (Curtly) I've got other things to do!

LITTLE RED: How rude! (*To Audience*) Do you think you can help me? I don't know which way to go to get to my grandmother's house and maybe you could tell me. (Wait

for audience response.) Well, you're no help at all!

LITTLE RED exits.

NARRATOR: Now where was I? Oh, yes! I was telling you about some of the characters that we are about to meet in our story, and some of them are very strange!

Hysterical laughter is heard offstage.

QUEEN: (*Offstage*) Off with his head!

ALL: Uh-oh! The Queen!

NARRATOR: Yes, the Queen of Hearts might frighten you, so we have to stay on her good side, if she even has one, or she will shout...

QUEEN: (*Offstage*): Off with your head!

QUEEN and KING enter.

QUEEN: Off with your head! Off with your head! Off with your head!

NARRATOR: (*Bows to the Queen*) Surely, your majesty, you do not mean that. (*To the audience*) And why don't you welcome all of these good people?

QUEEN: Off with their heads too!

KING: Come along, my dear.

QUEEN: Off with their heads! Off with their heads!

KING: Later, my dear. There will be plenty of time for that later. Come along, now!

QUEEN: Off with your head!

KING: Yes, yes, yes, my dear. Anything you say.

KING leads the QUEEN offstage. DORMOUSE enters with a huge envelope. He lays on the floor and snores.

NARRATOR: Um, excuse me...excuse me. (*Goes to DORMOUSE and screams*) Wake up!

DORMOUSE: Don't wake me when I'm trying to sleep!

NARRATOR: Why are you here?

DORMOUSE snores.

NARRATOR: Wake up!

DORMOUSE: A message from the Queen.
(*Hands the card over to the NARRATOR*)

NARRATOR: It says, "get on with it or off with your heads." (*Dormouse snores*) Wake up!

DORMOUSE: I said don't wake me when I'm trying to sleep. (*NARRATOR pulls DORMOUSE up and DORMOUSE exits while snoring.*)

QUEEN: (*Offstage*) Get on with it!

NARRATOR: Yes, your majesty! One sunny day a little girl named Alice sat by a quiet riverbank with her sister Margaret.

ALICE and MARGARET enter and sit

MARGARET: William the conqueror, who's cause was favored by the Pope, was soon submitted to by the English. Edwin and Morcar, the Earls of Mercia and North Umbria, declared for him...

ALICE: What did they declare?

MARGARET: It doesn't say.

ALICE: What did they look like?

MARGARET: There aren't any pictures. Now pay attention, Alice.

ALICE: (*Yawns*) I am paying attention, but what is the use of a book without pictures?

MARGARET: I Alice, there are many wonderful books without pictures.

ALICE: But if I had my way, all books would be filled with pictures.

MARGARET: What nonsense!

ALICE: Yes, filled with nonsense too!

MARGARET: That is enough! Now listen... Edwin and Morcar, the earls of Mercia and North Umbria, declared for him, finding it advisable to off him the crown...Alice, you're

not listening. (*As she exits*) When you're ready to listen to the story I'll continue.

WHITE RABBIT enters the stage.
ALICE goes to it.

ALICE: A white rabbit...with a very large pocket watch.

RABBIT: Oh dear, oh dear! I'm late, I'm late! (*Exits*)

NARRATOR: Alice jumped up and started to follow the rabbit. (*To ALICE*) He went that way.

ALICE: Thank you! (*Exits*)

NARRATOR: Alice kept following the rabbit, and then she found herself in a very strange place. A place no other little girl had ever been...(*Exits*)

RABBIT: (*enters*) Oh no, the Queen! She'll be angry if I'm late!

ALICE: (*entering behind the WHITE RABBIT*) Wait Mr. Rabbit! Wait!

RABBIT: Oh, my ears and whiskers, how late it is! Oh, my dear. I'm so late! The Queen will have my head for this! (*Exits*)

ALICE: I've lost him. Where did he go? Where am I?

HATTER and HARE enters

HARE: It's teatime!

HATTER: How do you know?

HARE: What other time could it be?

HATTER: You're right. Shall we go?

HARE: Of course we shall.

HATTER: We are.

HARE: We were.

HATTER: We will be. (*They both laugh.*)

HARE: Teatime!

HATTER: Tea for you.

HARE: Tea for me, tea for you.

HATTER: Tea for we! (They laugh and exit.)

ALICE: (Watching in amazement.) Oh, dear. Where am I? I don't know where I am. This is all very confusing. I'd better find a way home. This is the strangest forest I've ever seen. Very strange.

ALL: (From offstage.) Very strange! (Laughing.)

ALICE: Hello? Where are you? Yoo-hoo!

ALL: (From offstage.) Yoo-hoo! Yoo-hoo!

QUEEN: Off with their heads!

ALL: (WILD LAUGHTER.)

ALICE: I wonder why they're laughing. I'm going to find a way home.

CHESHIRE CAT enters

ALICE: Look, it's a cat! A very large cat. Or maybe I'm smaller than I was. I've never seen cats and rabbits that were bigger than I am. (CAT starts to exit) Don't go away kitty. Please stay.

CHESHIRE CAT exits. CATERPILLAR enters.

ALICE: I must have frightened it away. I wonder why it kept smiling at me like that. (Turns around to see CATERPILLAR) Oh! Why it's a Caterpillar!

PILLAR: Whoooooooo are youuuuuu?

ALICE: I really don't know sire. I knew who I was when I woke up this morning, but I think I've changed since then.

PILLAR: What dooo youuuuuu meannn? Explain yourself.

ALICE: I can't explain myself. Everything is so confusing.

PILLAR: It isnnnnn't.

ALICE: It is to me. Why don't you tell me who you are?

PILLAR: Whhhhhyyy?

ALICE: Oh! (She is angry and starts to exit)

PILLAR: Wait! Commme back. I have something toooo say.

ALICE: What is it?

PILLAR: Keep your temper. Sooo, you think you're confused, dooo youuuu?

ALICE: I know I am. Everything seems to be the wrong size, or at least a different size. Especially me.

PILLAR: Whaaat size dooo youuu want to beeeee?

ALICE: I don't know exactly. I would like to be a little larger.

PILLAR: Whhhhhyyy?

ALICE: Well, I'm not used to being so small. At least I think I'm small. I really don't know.

PILLAR: In time, you'll get used to it. (He starts to exit)

ALICE: Oh, wait! Please, wait!

PILLAR: Goooooodbyyyeee. Goooooodbyyyeee.

ALICE: Now what can I do? This place is so confusing. I think I'll go –

NARRATOR enters.

NARRATOR: Why don't you go that way? Or you could go that way. You'll find your way. Good luck! (Exits.)

ALICE: Oh, no. Please don't leave me here. (She sits down and begins to cry.)

Giggles are heard offstage

ALICE: What was that? Is anyone there? (More giggles.) There is someone there. (She looks around.) Where are you? I know you're there. Where are you? (More giggles. As she is turning around Tweedledum and Tweedledee appear.)

TWEEDLEDUM: What is she doing?

TWEEDLEDEE: She's crying.

TWEEDLEDUM: Contrariwise, she's leaking.

TWEEDLEDEE: No how, she's crying!

TWEEDLEDUM: Contrariwise, She's le-

ALICE: Excuse me... (Starts getting up)

TWEEDLEDUM: Huh! She's talking!

TWEEDLEDEE: Contrariwise, she's asking.

TWEEDLEDUM: No how, she's talking.

ALICE: Pardon me, but I was wondering...where am I? (Walks over to them).

DUM & DEE: We'll never tell. (They stand very still. Alice begins to cry again.)

TWEEDLEDUM: Hey...She's leaking again!

TWEEDLEDEE: No how, she's crying.

TWEEDLEDUM: She's leaking! (They stand perfectly still again & freeze.)

ALICE: I'm crying!

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD enters

LITTLE RED: (Goes up to ALICE and TWEEDLEDEE and TWEEDLEDUM and try to get their attention.) Excuse me. Excuse me. Hello? Are you statues?

DUM & DEE: (They ignore LITTLE RED and speak to ALICE.) If you think we're statues, you ought to pay, you know. You're supposed to pay to look at statues, you know. You can't look at statues for nothing. No how.

DEE: If you think we're alive, you ought to speak to us.

ALICE: I'm very sorry.

DUM: Don't be concerned about it. No how.

DEE: Yes how!

ALICE: Excuse me, but do either one of you know the way out of this forest?

LITTLE RED: Yes, yes. Do you? I need to get out of this forest, too. (They ignore her.)

DUM: Yes how!

DEE: Yes how!

ALICE: What do I do?

LITTLE RED: You pay attention to me! I'm trying to get to my grandmother's house! (They ignore her.)

TWEEDLEDUM: Let's dance!

LITTLE RED: Dancing won't take me to my grandmother's house! Please help me! Hello! Look at me, please! I went the wrong way, and I don't want to do that again.

TWEEDLEDEE: Yes, let's dance! (DUM & DEE grab ALICE and dance in a circle singing "Here we go round the mulberry bush, the mulberry bush, the mulberry bush").

DEE: (Stops suddenly.) That's enough for one dance.

DUM: Let's tell her a story.

ALICE: Oh, I love good stories.

LITTLE RED: Uuugghhh! I think I'll find someone else to help me! You three are no help at all! (She exits.)

DEE: Which one shall we tell?

DUM: The "Walrus and The Carpenter". That's the longest.

DEE: (Clearing his throat.) Ahem. "The Walrus and the Carpenter were walking close at hand. They wept like anything to see such large amounts of sand. If this were only cleared away, they said, "It would be just grand". Now you tell her the other part.

DUM: (Clearing his throat.) Ahem. "The time has come, the Walrus said, to talk of many things. Of shoes and ships and polishing wax of cabbages and Kings. And why the sea is boiling hot and whether pigs have wings." Do you like it?

ALICE: Yes, but I –

DEE: She didn't like it.

ALICE: But I did like it. Very much. It's just that I want to find my way home. But I do like you both and I enjoyed my visit with you. But it's late and I should be on my way.

DUM: Well, then, goodbye.

DEE: Yes, goodbye.

DUM: Let's have dinner.

DEE: Let's have lunch.

DUM: No how!

DEE: Yes how!

DUM: Let's have breakfast!

DEE: Let's have brunch!

DUM: No how!

DEE: Yes how! *(They exit arguing repeating "no how" and "yes how" until they are offstage.)*

WHITE RABBIT runs in with a huge envelope

SCENE TWO

RABBIT: I'm late, I'm late! For a very important date!

ALICE: Oh, Mr. Rabbit, there you are.

RABBIT: *(To Alice.)* Hello Maryann! Please give the Duchess this invitation.

ALICE: My name is Alice. What is the invitation for?

RABBIT: Why it's an invitation for the Duchess to play croquet with the Queen. *(Looks at his watch.)* Oh dear, oh, dear. I'm late. I'm late! I can't stay another moment, Maryann. I'm late! *(He rushes off.)*

ALICE: My name is not Maryann! It's Alice!

(The COOK stands behind a table that has pots and pans, dishes, a book and a pencil. She holds a peppershaker and puts it in a pan.)

COOK: Ah-choo! Pepper! *(Throws a dish.)*
Ah-choo! More pepper! *(Throws a pot.)*
Ah-choo! There's never enough pepper!
(She writes in her book.) Oh, pepper! *(She begins to hum to herself. The DUCHESS enters carrying a baby.)* Ah-choo! Ah-choo! Pepper!

DUCHESS: SALT! Who's at the door?
Answer the door.

COOK: Pepper...pepper...pepper. *(She writes again in her book.)*

DUCHESS: Salt!

COOK: *(Throws a plate.)* Pepper! There's no one at the door.

DUCHESS: Salt! *(Singing to her baby.)*
Piggy, piggy, wiggly, iggy. Cook, answer the door.

COOK: Ah-choo! Ah-choo! *(Throws a dish and a pot.) She continues sneezing and walks and pantomimes answering a door. ALICE looks confused at the DUCHESS and the COOK. She returns to her table and writes in her book.)* Pepper!

DUCHESS: Salt! Oh, baby – piggy, piggy-baby. You silly baby. PIG!

COOK: Pepper! *(She throws another pot.)*
Duchess, answer the door. More pepper.
(She writes in her book.)

DUCHESS: Salt! There's no one at the door.

COOK: Pepper. Pepper. Pepper. Ah – choo! Duchess, answer the door.

DUCHESS: Salt! Oooooooooohhhh. Piggy, piggy wiggly.

ALICE: *(To COOK.)* Excuse me, but what are you doing?

COOK: There's never too much pepper.
(She shakes more.) Ah-choo!

ALICE: *(Looks into her pot.)* I see.

DUCHESS: *(To Alice.)* Well? Are you just going to stand there? Why don't you say – how do you do?

ALICE: How do you do?

DUCHESS: I've been better.

ALICE: Aren't you feeling well?

DUCHESS: Well, what?

ALICE: What?

DUCHESS: What are you talking about?

ALICE: Hmmmm.....I don't know, actually.

DUCHESS: You don't know much and that's a fact!

COOK: Pepper! Ah-choo! *(Throws a plate and writes in her book.)*

ALICE: Tell me, what are you writing?

COOK: Isn't it obvious?

ALICE: I'm afraid not.

DUCHESS: Of course not! Tell me is pepper a vegetable?

ALICE: No. I believe it's a mineral.

DUCHESS: A mineral! There's a large pepper mine around here somewhere.

COOK: *(Very excited.)* Pepper mine?

DUCHESS: The more there is of mine, the less there is of yours. *(She laughs. To the baby.)* Pig! *(She starts to toss it up into the air.)*

ALICE: Oh, the poor baby.

DUCHESS: *(Throws the baby at ALICE.)* Here! You may hold it if you like. I must get ready.

COOK and DUCHESS exit

ALICE: Well, I never... *(NARRATOR enters. A SE of BABY grunting like a pig is heard.)*

NARRATOR 1: What's wrong baby? Oh my, it's a pig!

COOK: *(Re-enters and grabs the baby.)* Perhaps I should take the baby with me. A story with no pepper!!!! Hmph!! Ridiculous! *(She sneezes into the baby's face and the baby grunts again like a pig.)*

NARRATOR: Welcome to Wonderland! *(To ALICE)* Which way are you going now?

ALICE: I think I'll go that way.

NARRATOR: Good luck! *(Exits.)*

SCENE THREE

CHESHIRE CAT appears behind ALICE

ALICE: Oh my, it's that cat again. Do you know how to talk? *(CAT grins and nods)* Then why don't you speak?

CAT: That depends on what you want to know.

ALICE: Could you tell me which way I should go?

CAT: That depends on where you want to go.

ALICE: I don't care very much where...

CAT: Then it doesn't matter which way you go.

ALICE: As long as I get somewhere! Could you tell me what sort of people live around here?

CAT: *(Pointing.)* In that direction lives the March Hare. In that direction lives the Mad Hatter. Visit either you like. They're both mad.

ALICE: I don't think I want to visit mad people.

CAT: Oh, you can't help it. We're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad.

ALICE: What makes you say that?

CAT: You're here, aren't you?

CAT: *(Ignores her.)* Are you going to play croquet with the Queen?

ALICE: I haven't been invited.

CAT: *(Starts to exit.)* You'll see me there.

ALICE: He's gone.

CAT: *(Reappears.)* Have you decided?

ALICE: Decided what?

CAT: Which way to go, of course.

ALICE: Not really. I suppose the March Hare would be interesting to visit or perhaps the Hatter. Which way was which?

CAT: Either way will do. It doesn't make any difference. (CAT exits.)

ALICE: (Going after the Cat.) It doesn't? But why? *(Alice tries to find out where the Cat has gone as the RABBIT enters in a great hurry.)*

RABBIT: I'm late! Not a moment to lose! I'll miss the game.

ALICE: Wait! Mr. Rabbit.

RABBIT: I'm late! I'm late! Hurry! No time to waste! No time to lose! (He exits.)

ALICE: Mr. Rabbit!! Now what can I do? (Alice is left onstage alone.)

SCENE FOUR

(The MAD HATTER, The MARCH HARE and The Dormouse are sitting at a table with teacups, teapots, etc. The HARE and HATTER laugh and giggle wildly as the HATTER begins to pour tea. The DORMOUSE falls asleep. NARRATOR enters.)

NARRATOR: Alice was tired and still very confused. The Mad Hatter and the March Hare were having a tea party that afternoon. Just as they did on every other afternoon, on every other day. (Exits)

HATTER: Lovely tea!

HARE: Lovely day!

HATTER: Lovely. Let's have more tea.

HARE: Lovely. Let's sit down

HATTER: Why not?

HARE: Why?

HATTER: Who knows?

HATTER: Not !! (They laugh wildly.)
Dormouse wake up!

DORMOUSE: Don't wake me when I'm trying to sleep! When you wake me up you get this! (Spits, sits and snores)

HATTER: Dormouse, wake up!

DORMOUSE: When you wake me up you get double this! (Spits, sits and snores)

HATTER: What time is it?

HARE: Teatime! Will you have some tea?

HATTER: Why, no, thank you

HARE: Do you think he *(Dormouse)* wants any?

HATTER: *(Lifts Dormouse's head, peers into his face)* Dormouse! Dormouse! Do you want some tea? *(He snores)* What's that? *(He snores)* What is he saying? Does he want tea or not?

HARE: Give him some just to be sure.

HATTER: Of course, how clever you are.

HARE: Well, it is Thursday after all. The cleverest day of the week.

HATTER: *(Pours tea into Dormouse's mouth. Dormouse spits it out)* Drink! Drink! Drink!

DORMOUSE: Mmm. Tea *(Snores)*

HARE: Change places!

They all get up and randomly change places. ALICE comes forward to the table.

HATTER: What is that creature?

HARE: Did you invite her?

HATTER: Never! How could you suggest such an idea? No room! No room! Go away!

ALICE: But there is plenty of room. I'll sit here.

HARE: Have some wine? *(HARE and HATTER laugh, stop abruptly)*

ALICE: I don't see any wine.

HARE: That's because there isn't any *(They laugh)*

ALICE: Well, that wasn't very polite of you to offer it.

HARE: It wasn't very polite of you to sit down without being invited.

ALICE: But – but – but...

HATTER: *(Mocking her)* But – but – but...

ALICE: (Upset) But you have room for more than three.

HATTER: You're hair needs cutting.

ALICE: You shouldn't make personal remarks. It's very rude.

HATTER: (To Hare.) It is?

HARE: (To Hatter.) Is it? *(They laugh, stop abruptly and stare at Alice)*

HATTER: A riddle!

ALICE: Oh, good. I like riddles.

HATTER: Why is a raven like a writing desk?

ALICE: Let me see... a raven and a writing desk. I think I can guess that. It's on the tip of my tongue.

HATTER: (Horried.) It is?

HARE: On the tip of her tongue?

HATTER: Let me see.

ALICE: See what?

HATTER: Your tongue! (To Hare.) Whoever heard of answers to riddles written on tongues?

HARE: Not !!

HATTER: Dormouse! Wake up!

DORMOUSE: Me neither! (Spits, then snores)

ALICE: But I meant that...

HATTER: Let me see!

ALICE: Oh, all right. (She sticks out her tongue.)

HATTER: I don't see a thing. Not a word.

HARE: Not a syllable.

HATTER: Put your tongue back, creature.

ALICE: All I meant was that I thought that I could answer the riddle.

HARE: You should say what you mean.

HATTER: You might as well say that I see what I eat is the same thing as I eat what I see.

HARE: And you might as well say that I like what I get is the same thing as I get what I like.

DORMOUSE: (Rising with a snort and a yawn.) You might as well say that I breathe when I sleep is the same thing as I sleep when I breathe. *(Sits back down and snores)*

HATTER: More tea?

ALICE: Well, I can't have more tea if I never had any.

HATTER: Are you full?

ALICE: No, I – more tea please.

HARE: Splendid! *(Pours tea into her cup, shaking the tea kettle very hard)*

HATTER picks up a clock and starts to slap it.

HATTER: Dormouse! Wake up! What day of the month is it?

DORMOUSE: The fourth. *(Snores)*

HATTER: It's three days long! I told you butter wouldn't work!

HARE: It was the best butter!

HATTER: You shouldn't have put it in with the bread knife! It has crumbs in it!

HARE starts to smack the clock on the table.

ALICE: What a funny clock. It tells the day of the month, but the time?

HATTER: Why shouldn't it? Time, time, time, time. Give me the clock!

HATTER places the clock on the table. Grabs a (fake) heavy instrument and starts to hit the clock. HARE brings the clock to the ground and continues to rapidly hit the clock with the instrument. They start shrieking and shouting and running around the table. They abruptly stop and stare at ALICE for a few seconds not making a sound. DORMOUSE snores.

HATTER: Have you guessed the riddle yet?

ALICE: No, I give up. What's the answer?

HARE: Nor do I. *(They laugh wildly.)*
Change places! *(Once again, they all change places. The Hatter stands up on the table.)*

HATTER: Last year I sang for the Queen of Hearts. *(He sings.)* Twinkle, twinkle, little bat, how I wonder what you're at. Up above the world you fly, like a tea tray in the sky. Twinkle, twinkle... Dormouse wake up!

DORMOUSE: Twinkle, twinkle...*(snores)*

HATTER: Dormouse, wake up!

DORMOUSE: I heard every word...*(snores)*

HARE: Dormouse! He's asleep again! Hurry! Everyone hold your breath and count to zero! Good! Dormouse! Wake up!

DORMOUSE: I do know one. But only one. You see, once upon a time, there were three sisters, named Elsie, Lacie, and Tillie *(yawns)*. And they lived at the bottom of a well. They were learning to draw and they drew all sorts of things, everything that begins with an "M".

ALICE: But why an "M".

DORMOUSE: Why not an "M"? *(Snores)*
Please don't interrupt me anymore.
Anyway...these three sisters, Elsie, Lacie and Tillie were learning to draw and they...

HATTER: Yes, yes. Do get on with it!

DORMOUSE: They drew marshmallows, mice, and marmalade, massshhed potatoes and more, more, more...*(snores)*

HARE: That was a beautiful story, Dormouse.

ALICE: I did not find his story that amusing.

HATTER and HARE scream in unison, then abruptly stop and stare at ALICE

HATTER: *(Suddenly leaping onto his chair.)* Wait!

HARE: What?

HATTER: Have you got the time?

HARE: No, I haven't seen him.

HATTER: I thought so! *(He points offstage.)* There he goes!

HARE: *(Leaps up onto his chair.)* Where?

HATTER: *(Coming down from his chair.)* There! *(They start to rush away dragging the Dormouse with them.)*

HARE: Catch him!

HATTER: Don't let him get away!

ALICE: Time for what? Wait. Oh, they're gone. Where am I? I wish I'd never followed that rabbit.

ALICE exits.

SCENE FIVE

NARRATOR enters.

NARRATOR: Poor Alice. She'd never been to tea party like that

LITTLE RED enters

LITTLE RED: Hello? Is anyone there?

NARRATOR: You're still here?

LITTLE RED: Yes, as you can see, I'm still here. I'm still lost, and I would still like someone to help me find my grandmother's house. And I'm worried about that big, bad wolf too.

NARRATOR: Now, let's see...you're in the wrong story...you're lost...you're still trying to find your way to your grandmother's house and you're still carrying that basket, so there's only one solution.

LITTLE RED: Oh, please tell me.

NARRATOR: You'll have to give me what's in your basket and then I can help you find your way to your grandmother's house.

LITTLE RED: Oh, no! I couldn't! I've made a very special soup for her. You see she's sick...

NARRATOR: It'll be fine. Just give me the soup and I'll be able to help you find your way. You see soup nourishes the senses and I can point you in the right direction after I've had some of your very special soup.

LITTLE RED: No!! (*NARRATOR tries to grab her soup.*) I said NO! (*LITTLE RED runs offstage.*)

NARRATOR: (*Laughing*) I'm going to get some of that soup!

LITTLE RED: (*From offstage.*) NO!

NARRATOR: We'll see about that! We are now in the Queen of Heart's royal garden of mostly red roses. *NARRATOR exits.*

SCENE SIX

(*CARDS enter with KNAVE. They have paintbrushes and buckets. They go to some trees that have roses on them and start to paint*)

KNAVE: Paint the roses red, la la la la la.
Paint the roses red, tra la la la la.

CARDS: Tra la la la la.

CARD #1: Watch out! You're getting paint on me!

CARD #2: No. You got paint on me.

CARD #3: Who got paint on who? Paint the roses red. Tra la la la la

CARD #4: Why red? Tra la la la la. Why not blue or orange or pink or purple?

CARD # 5: Red...Red...Red...How fun...

ALICE enters.

ALICE: Excuse me. Why are you painting those roses?

CARDS: Shh!!!

CARD #1: Someone might hear you!

CARD #2: We're supposed to paint the roses red.

CARD #3: I'm painting as fast as I can! Tra la la la la.

CARD #4: No, you're not! Tra la la la la.

CARD #3: Yes, I am!

CARD #5: You see, this should have been a red rose tree.

CARD #1: But one of our cards...who shall not be named...

CARDS: (*Pointing to Card #3*) It was him!

CARD #3: It was not!

CARD #2: (*Shouting*) IT WAS!

KNAVE: Quiet! One of our guards here planted a white rose tree instead of a red one. If the Queen finds out about this...

CARDS: She'll have our heads!

KNAVE: So, we're trying to paint the roses red before she sees them.

KNAVE and CARDS sing "Painting the roses red, Tra La La" as ALICE watches on

KNAVE: The Queen of Hearts is baking cherry tarts on this fine afternoon.

CARDS: Red cherry tarts!

CARD #2: Do we have to paint those too?

CARD #1: You got paint on me again!

CARD #3: Who got paint on who?

CARD #4: The Queen will have our heads if we paint her cherry tarts!

CARD #5: Just keep painting the roses! Tra la la la la

KNAVE: Quiet! We have to hurry before she arrives.

ALICE: Can I help you?

KNAVE: Have you ever painted before?

ALICE: Never roses, but I've painted other things before.

KNAVE: We don't even know you. You'll ruin everything and then we will have to start all over.

RABBIT enters

RABBIT: Make way for the Queen! The Queen! Make way for the Queen!

KNAVE: Oh no, the Queen!

CARDS: The Queen is coming!

RABBIT: The Queen approaches! The Queen!

*QUEEN, KING, HATTER, HARE, DORMOUSE, DUCHESS, COOK, CATERPILLAR, TWEEDLEDEE, TWEEDLEDUM, CHESHIRE CAT enter
KNAVE and CARDS fall to the ground and bow*

QUEEN: Off with their heads!

KING: Not yet, my dear.

QUEEN: *(To Alice)* Who is this? What is your name?

ALICE: My name is Alice, Your Majesty.

QUEEN: *(Points to Knave.)* And who is this?

ALICE: How should I know, Your Majesty? It's really no business of mine.

QUEEN: Off with her head! Off with her head!

KING: My dear, she is only a child.

QUEEN: HMPH! *(To the King.)* Turn them over!

KING: Yes, my dear. *(With his toe he turns over the KNAVE. The KNAVE and THE CARDS stand up still holding their heads and begin bowing to the QUEEN except ALICE.)*

QUEEN: Stop that. All of you! You make me dizzy. *(Stomps her foot.)* What have you been doing here?

KNAVE: May it please your Majesty, we were trying to paint the roses.

CARDS: Paint the roses red, tra, la, la, la, la!

QUEEN: Painting my roses? How dare you paint my roses.

KNAVE: But your Majesty wanted red roses.

QUEEN: Not painted ones! Off with their heads!

ALL: *(Except Knave and Cards.)* Off with their heads! Off with their heads!

ALICE: No, you mustn't.

KNAVE and THE CARDS exit sobbing

KING: *(To Alice.)* Ssshhhh. If you know what's good for you.

ALICE: But she can't just ---

QUEEN: *(Shouting to Alice.)* Do you play croquet?

KING: *(To Alice.)* I hope you do, my dear. For your own good.

QUEEN: *(Shouts.)* Do you play croquet?

ALICE: *(Shouts back.)* Yes, I do!

QUEEN: Come along, then!

KING: *(Takes Alice by the arm.)* Come along. Come along.

ALL: Come along, come along, come along.

NARRATOR enters and gives the QUEEN and ALICE croquet mallets (flamingos) and two balls.

NARRATOR: Now you see, when the Queen of Hearts plays croquet, she doesn't always play fairly. And of course, she always wants to win...

QUEEN: I get to go first! *(QUEEN hits the ball very hard.)* I win! I win! I always win!

ALL applaud and cheer.

ALICE: I suppose it is my turn now. *(ALICE hits the ball and a member of the cast picks up the ball and throws it off the stage.)*

ALL: *(To Alice)* BOO!

ALICE: That wasn't very fair!

QUEEN: I am the winner, and you are the loser!

NARRATOR: You see the Queen always wins the game. But the game on this particular day was interrupted by a cat.

NARRATOR exits as CHESHIRE CAT enters

ALICE: Cheshire cat! Now I'll have someone on my side.

CAT: How are you getting along?

ALICE: There are no rules here. No one pays any attention. And the Queen certainly doesn't play fair when it comes to croquet.

CAT: Well, what do you think of the Queen? Do you like her?

ALICE: Not at all. She's so –

QUEEN: Who are you talking to?

ALICE: A Cheshire Cat. He's a friend of mine.

KING: I don't like the look of him. However, he may kiss my hand.

CAT: I'd rather not.

ALL: Did you hear that? Oh, my! Dear me! Gracious! (etc.)

KING: Tell him to go away.

CAT: I don't feel like leaving yet.

ALICE: He's a very nice cat.

KING: I don't like the way he grins at me.

QUEEN: Neither do I. Cat! Stop that grinning. Off with his head!

ALICE: NO!

QUEEN: Off with her head, too!

KING: My dear, I wish you'd remove this cat.

QUEEN: Have you decided? Are you leaving or not?

CAT: I'm thinking it over.

KING: Make him go away.

QUEEN: After that cat!

ALICE: No!

QUEEN: Yes! Follow that Cat!

HATTER: (They all move in on the cat.) Catch him!

HARE: Don't let him get away.

ALL: Catch the Cat! Catch the Cat!

ALICE: No! Stop, please! No! (They all run around the stage in different directions, but Alice and the Cat don't move. They all stop.)

QUEEN: Where did he go? Off with his head!

KING: Look! (Points to Cat.) Make him go away.

HATTER: Catch him!

HARE: There he goes! (Everyone rushes offstage.)

SCENE SEVEN

ALICE: Come on. Let's run away before they catch you.

CAT: They won't. Don't worry.

ALICE: Is anyone sane around here?

CAT: Not really...*(grins)* Say... Have you met the Mock Turtle?

ALICE: I don't even know what a mock turtle is.

CAT: It's the thing that mock turtle soup is made from.

ALICE: I never saw one nor heard of one.

CAT: Maybe the Mock Turtle will tell you, her story. She's never told me. She hasn't told anyone come to think of it. Come on! She will tell you her history! (Screams) Mock Turtle!!!!

MOCK TURTLE enters very slowly. She sits and begins to cry.

ALICE: What's her sorrow?

CAT: Hasn't got one. Just her fancy! Oh, Mock Turtle! This young lady right here wants to hear your history. *(TURTLE*

continues to cry) Well if you don't feel up to it...

TURTLE: Wait! She shall hear my history. All of it. Please sit down and do not interrupt until I have completed the entire tale.

CAT and ALICE sit down. TURTLE begins to cry

ALICE: How can she finish if she never begins?

CAT & TURTLE: Shhh!!!

TURTLE: Once...long ago...when everything was different. I was not a mock turtle; I was a real turtle. When we were little, we went to school in the sea. The master was an old turtle, and we used to call him Tortoise.

ALICE: Why would you call him Tortoise if he wasn't?

TURTLE: Because he *taught* us!

CAT and TURTLE laugh hysterically

TURTLE: Really, you are very dull. You ought to be ashamed of yourself for asking such simple questions.

CAT: Please continue, Mock Turtle.

TURTLE: We used to go to school every day, we called it day school.

ALICE: That's not terribly unusual you know. I went to day school every day too.

TURTLE: Well, do you study extras?

ALICE: French and Music.

TURTLE: We learned washing. Did you?

ALICE: No.

TURTLE: Doesn't sound like much of a school. What about teachers? My teacher was an old crab. Do you have an old crab for a teacher?

ALICE: Depends on her mood. *(Alice laughs but they just stare, not laughing. Alice stops)* So how many hours a day did you do lessons?

TURTLE: Ten hours the first day; nine hours the next and so on.

ALICE: What a curious plan.

Turtle: Well now, you must tell us your history!

ALICE: My history? All of it?

TURTLE: Nooo! Just begin at the beginning, go through to the end, then stop.

ALICE: Well...

TURTLE: Come on, we haven't got all day, you know that trial will begin any moment now.

ALICE: The trial? What trial?

CAT: The Queen of Hearts. She made some tarts. All on a summer day.

TURTLE: And so forth.

ALICE: But why must there be a trial?

CAT: To find the culprit I suspect.

RABBIT enters.

RABBIT: The trial! The Queen of Hearts is having a trial! Oh no, oh no. I'm late! I'm late!

RABBIT, CAT and TURTLE exit.

ALICE: Cheshire cat? Where did you go? Oh, I'm hopefully lost in this strange land! As soon as I rest for a moment, I'll go back and see if I can find that cat!

SCENE EIGHT

CAST runs onstage and runs around preparing for The Trial. There are two chairs for the KING and QUEEN. CAST makes up the JURY. NARRATOR enters.

NARRATOR: Our story certainly has been interesting but there's more to come! (Takes a seat with the JURY.)

RABBIT: Make way for the Queen!

QUEEN: It's time for the trial!

ALICE: What trial?

KING: (Jumping up and down.) Can I be the judge? Can I be the judge?

QUEEN: All right! All right!

KING: I'm the judge! I'm the judge!

HATTER: Teatime. (Hare laughs.)

ALICE: (Standing by King.) Congratulations!

QUEEN: Quiet!

RABBIT: (Rushing around.) The Queen said quiet. The Queen said quiet.

LITTLE RED enters

LITTLE RED: Excuse me, but do you think that you could help me? I've been wandering around in the forest trying to...

QUEEN: SILENCE! Off with your head!

ALL: Hiss!

QUEEN: SILENCE! Off with all of your heads!

LITTLE RED: Well, aren't you a little abrupt! I don't think I've ever met anyone like you before. You know my grandmother would be very disappointed in your behavior because she has always said that...

QUEEN: (Screams.) STOP! STOP! STOP YOUR CHATTERING!! Off with your head! Off with your head! Off with your head!

ALICE: Excuse me, but my name is Alice, and I don't think we've met.

LITTLE RED: Oh, I've heard about you before. I wonder if you could help me find my way to my grandmother's house!

QUEEN: OFF WITH THEIR HEADS!

ALICE: I think we've made the Queen angry!

LITTLE RED: Yes, I can't wait for you to meet my grandmother. She is very nice and sweet and... (She rambles as she exits.)

QUEEN: Quiet!

HATTER: (Writing on a piece of paper.) Teatime!

ALICE: What are you writing?

HATTER: My name.

ALICE: Why?

HATTER: So, I won't forget it! Let's get on with it!

QUEEN: Bring in the prisoner!

RABBIT: Prisoner, prisoner. (The Knave crosses center.) The Queen of Hearts made some tarts, all on a summer day. The Knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts and took them quite away.

ALL: Boo! Hiss!

KING: Accused? Have you anything to say?

QUEEN: Off with his head!

KING: Not yet, dear.

KNAVE: I appeal to the sympathy of the jury. I couldn't help myself. The Queen's cherry tarts smelled so good, and they looked so delicious.

JURY: Ahhhhhh!

DUCHESS: And the moral of that is if you want to keep your head, don't get caught!

COOK: Pepper! More pepper! Ahhh-Choo!

KNAVE: I couldn't help myself. Before I knew it, I'd eaten them all. Every one of the cherry tarts.

QUEEN: My dear, how were they?

KNAVE: Delicious, Your Majesty!

JURY: Ahhhhhh!

HATTER: I want one.

HARE: So do I! (They sob on each other's shoulders.)

DUM: He couldn't help it. No how!

DEE: Yes, he could! Yes how!

KNAVE: I appeal to all of you to be kind. Have pity on a poor hungry Knave.

HATTER: It's tragic. (Still crying.)

HARE: It's terrible. (Crying.) Everyone in the court starts to sob.)

QUEEN: Call our witnesses!

RABBIT: First witness!

HATTER: Thank you. Thank you. I love you all.

KING: Take off your hat.

HATTER: It isn't mine.

KING: Stolen. (To Jury.) Write that down. State your case.

HATTER: I'm a very poor man, Your Majesty...

NARRATOR: You're a very poor speaker. (Everyone cheers.)

KING: Quiet the jury.

RABBIT: Sssshhh!

KING: You may stand down.

HATTER: But I can't go any lower. I'm on the floor as it is.

KING: Then you may go.

HATTER: But I haven't stated my case.

KING: We don't have all day! Call the next witness.

RABBIT: Next witness! (The Cook charges up to the King and shakes pepper at him.)

COOK: I'm next.

ALL: Hurray!

QUEEN: Off with her head!

COOK: (Shakes pepper at her.) Have some pepper!

QUEEN: Ah-choo!

JURY: Ah-choo!

KING: Call the next witness!

COOK: But I haven't stated my case!

RABBIT: Next witness!

COOK: (Shakes pepper at the Rabbit.) More Pepper! More Pepper!

DUCHESS: If you have something to say, make sure no one hears you.

COOK: Ah-choo!

JURY: Ah-choo!

QUEEN: (Throws a shoe at them.) On with the party!

ALICE: Party? What party? And what about the trial and the poor Knave?

ALL: (Mocking her.) What about the trial and the poor Knave.

KING: (To the Queen.) Yes, my dear.

RABBIT: The Queen says on with the party. (They rearrange all the chairs and tables. They rush about madly getting bowls, cups, etc.)

ALICE: (To NARRATOR) Who is the party for?

NARRATOR: Why it's for you! (Exits.)

ALICE: I'm so confused.

QUEEN: You're late.

ALICE: I'm sorry.

QUEEN: Have some chicken.

KING: Try the soup.

MOCK TURTLE: Turtle soup?

DORMOUSE: Have some tea.

HATTER: Bread and butter.

KNAVE: Pudding?

RABBIT: Cake!

CARDS: Tarts.

KNAVE: Tarts?

ALL: I want one!

DORMOUSE: Cheese.

DUM & DEE: Beans.

COOK: Pepper! (She throws a plate from the table.)

DUCHESS: Salt!

ALICE: But I don't see any food!

HARE: We told you.

HATTER: Too late! No room, no room.

ALICE: But I'm hungry. (They all continue their party pretending to eat food. (The Cheshire Cat has appeared downstage.)

ALICE: (Looking very sad.) Cheshire Cat. (She sits down and pets the Cat.)

CAT: How was the party?

ALICE: Terrible.

CAT: Do you want to go home now?

ALICE: Oh, yes, please.

CAT: Well, just follow the path that way and you'll be home before you know it.

ALICE: Oh, thank you very much!

QUEEN: (Sees the Cat.) LOOK!

KING: It's the Cat! Make it go away.

QUEEN: After that Cat. Off with his head!

ALL: Catch the Cat!

Everyone rushes around the stage in a circle shrieking and shouting trying to catch the cat and exit. Alice gets very dazed and runs out of the circle and slumps to the floor.

MARGARET enters, still reading her book and bends down next to ALICE.

MARGARET: Alice! Wake up! Alice!

ALICE (Waking up) Margaret!!!

MARGARET: Oh my, what a long sleep you had.

ALICE: Margaret, I went to wonderland, and I saw oh so many curious things. I followed a white rabbit down the rabbit hole. And I met a duchess with a cook, a Cheshire cat that grins, and I played croquet with the Queen of Hearts, and she kept screaming off with your head! Off with your head!

MARGARET: Oh, my dear, you've been asleep and dreaming.

ALICE: Dreaming? But it seemed so real...

MARGARET: Dreams often do. That must have been some dream you had. Your cheeks...there is almost no color to them.

ALICE: No color?

MARGARET: Oh! And look at what I found. (Has red and white roses) Roses! Only a few of them were red, it was as if someone had painted these on the bush. How funny.

ALICE: Painted roses?

MARGARET: (Looks at a her pocket watch) Oh my, we're late! Come along now Alice. Since you overslept, we are terribly late for the tea party. You know how I hate being late!

ALICE: Yes, Margaret. Sorry to hold you up, let's go!

ALICE and MARGARET exits.

NARRATOR enters.

NARRATOR: (Eating LITTLE RED'S soup.) So, Alice finally found her way home. Or was she home the whole time? Alice didn't think she had been dreaming but she wasn't quite sure when she went to the spot where she had first seen the White Rabbit, and she watched and she waited, but the White Rabbit never came by again. Alice never forgot her adventures in Wonderland. Though she often wondered if it was a dream. What do you think?

BLACKOUT

BOWS