

ALICE IN CYBERLAND

A worksheet to accompany
Vienna's English Theatre's 2026/27 touring productions
by Adrienne Ferguson

PART 1: QUICK COMPREHENSION CHECK

Scene 1

1. What is Alice doing in this scene?
2. What is the name of her friend who is holding the camera?
3. Finish this sentence: "*Don't forget to like, follow and _____.*"
4. What happens to Alice's lips during this scene? Why are they hurting?

Scene 2

1. Olivia says that Alice doesn't have friends IRL. What does this mean?
2. How does Olivia describe her relationship to Alice?
3. Why did Nick stop using social media?
4. What is the term for someone who is addicted to taking selfies? Have a look online and see if this is true.
5. Who is Nick living with and how does he know about Alice?

Scene 3

1. Where does this scene take place?
2. What name does Olivia call Nick instead of his real name?
3. What is Alice's reaction to the fact that Nick is not online?
4. How does Alice respond when Nick asks if she could show him around?

Scene 4

1. What is the name of the English teacher?
2. What book does she say the class will be reading?
3. What is the topic of the book-report the class is asked to write?
4. What did the students's parents and guardians agree to for this assignment?

5. Finish this sentence: “*If a tree falls in a forest and no one is around to hear it; does it make a _____?*” What do you think this means? Why does Nick use this quote?

Scene 5

1. At the end of Scene 4 Alice says her parents would never take away her access to the internet. Does this turn out to be true?
2. What is the meaning of “digital withdrawal”? Have you ever experienced this?
3. Why can’t Alice turn the Wi-Fi back on while her parents are out?
4. What surprising thing happens at the end of the scene right after Alice is reading about the White Rabbit in *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*?

Scene 6

1. What words does the Cyber Bunny keep repeating?
2. Who does the Cyber Bunny say will have it deleted?
3. Why does Alice follow the Cyber Bunny? What headline does Alice say would make good social media content?

Scene 7

1. What does the Cyber Bunny give Alice at the top of the scene?
2. What does it want her to do with it?
3. Fill in the blank in the following sentence: “*This will _____ the internet.*”
4. In the voiceover what does it say happens to “*any citizens who have not gathered the appropriate number of likes*”?
5. Where does the Cyber Bunny hurry off to at the end of the scene?

Scene 8

1. Who does Alice meet in this scene?
2. What is the name of the Chatterpillar’s podcast?
3. What is Alice’s handle? Is the Chatterpillar able to find her online?
4. Fill in the blanks to the Royal Code “*If you don’t exist in the cyber world, then you don’t have any likes, and if you don’t have any likes, then you don’t _____*”
5. After the Chatterpillar disappears what word is Alice proud of herself for remembering without asking Google? What does this word mean?

Scene 9

1. Which character is introduced in Scene 9?
2. What does this character hold up instead of answering Alice’s questions? Why can’t it speak?

3. Which emoji does it hold up when Alice says, “*Who does that Queen think she is?*”
4. Who appears on screen to give a speech to the Citizens of Cyberland?
5. What happens during the speech that makes the Queen say, “*We’ll get that fixed.*”?
6. What is the Queen of Screens collecting? Why?

Scene 10

1. What are the names of the three characters from the Virtual Tea Party?
2. What popular party game do they play at the top of the scene? Have you ever played this game? What are the rules?
3. What kind of goggles are they all wearing? Why?
4. After they perform a dance what do they invite members of the audience onstage to do? What happens to the “Like-o-meter” after the audience members leave the stage?
5. The cake and tea at this tea party are not real, they are _____. Fill in the missing word.
6. What happens to the “Like-o-meter” after Alice introduces herself? What does the Mad Streamer do to try to get more *likes* and stop them losing followers?
7. What does Alice say is the answer to the riddle? Do you agree with this answer?
8. Fill in the blank in the following sentence: “*Our followers don’t come here for the truth; they come here for the _____.*”
9. Why is the Dormant Mouse so exhausted?
10. What does the voiceover say is creating “the glitch” in the Cyberland system?

Scene 11

1. Where does this scene take place?
2. Why has the Cyber Bunny brought Alice there?
3. What promotion does the Queen say she will give the Cyber Bunny for his service?
4. Why did the Queen open “the wormhole” into Alice’s room?
5. What does Alice say when the Queen announces, “*I am the algorithm!*”?
6. What are the two things that Alice says make us human?
7. What is the Queen going to do to Alice? Does the Cyber Bunny agree with this?
8. Which character reappears at the end of Scene 11?

Scene 12

1. How did Nick end up in Cyberland?
2. Which of the following words does Nick use to describe Cyberland: terrible, exciting, chaotic, unhinged, or magical?

3. What do Alice and Nick uncover about the Queen?
4. How does the Cyber Bunny help distract the Queen so they can pull out her charging cable?
5. What slowly starts to happen to the Queen throughout her final speech?
6. How does this effect Cyberland? What is going to happen?

Scene 13

1. Who does Alice hear calling her when she first wakes up back in her room?
2. Did Alice get the assignment finished? Do you think she remembers doing it?
3. Which of the following words would you use to describe Alice's behaviour in this scene: excited, nervous, sad, confused, angry?

Scene 14

1. Which of the following is in all of the boxes Olivia is carrying: books, @ReelAlice merchandise, snacks, make up?
2. Why do you think Olivia drops the boxes? Circle the correct answer.
 - a) She is so surprised that Alice called her a friend.
 - b) The boxes are too heavy.
 - c) She slipped.
 - d) She was scared by Nick.
3. How does Olivia respond when Alice says she had a strange dream last night? How does Nick respond?
4. Fill in the blank in the following sentence: "*Olivia, just because you are not present online doesn't mean you're not _____.*" What does this word mean?
5. Do you agree with Alice's statement: "*We don't need constant approval online for things to be meaningful.*"? Why or why not?
6. What did Alice do instead of writing a book report? How does Miss Anderson respond to this?
7. In what way do you think Alice has changed throughout the play?

PART 2: YOUR OPINION MATTERS

1. Did you enjoy reading the play? Say why or why not.
2. Which of the characters did you like best? Why?
3. Which parts of the play did you find most enjoyable?
4. What, if anything, would you change about it? Why?
5. If you were going to be in a production of this play which role would you like to play and why?

6. Was the text easy/medium/or difficult to understand?
7. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 the highest) how would you rate this play?
8. On a scale of 1-10 how interesting did you find the topic of the play?

PART 3: THE ORIGINAL STORY

1. *Alice in Cyberland* is based on the original novel “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”. With a partner or in small groups find out the following information:
 - What is the original author’s name? Is this his real name or a “pen” name? (A **pen name** is a false name that a writer uses instead of their real name.)

The Author



- When did he write “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”?
 - Where was he from?
2. The author came up with the story for “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” during a boat ride with a friend and the friend’s three daughters. He began the story to entertain the girls during the lazy afternoon on the water. One of the girls was named Alice and it is said that she was **the inspiration** behind the main character.



Alice Lidell: the inspiration for the character of Alice

- What does the term ***“inspiration”*** mean?
3. Since its publication, “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” has ***inspired*** countless artists to create movies, stage plays, ballets, and opera versions. Walt Disney, the man behind the famous company, said this in an interview: *“No story in English literature has intrigued me more than Lewis Carroll’s “Alice in Wonderland”. It fascinated me the first time I read it as a schoolboy.”*
- Is there a story that you have read or watched that has inspired you? Talk about it in pairs or small groups.
4. Perhaps you have seen a film version of “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”; either the Disney cartoon version or the 2010 film starring Johnny Depp as The Mad Hatter?
- Using what you may already know about the original plot and online resources to fill in the rest, please put the following summary into the correct order. Number the events from 1-7 in the order that they take place in the story.

___ Alice changes size several times after eating and drinking magical things.

___ Alice wakes up and discovers that her adventure was only a dream.

___ Alice visits the Queen of Hearts and takes part in a croquet match and a trial.

___ Alice meets many unusual characters, including a Caterpillar and the Cheshire Cat.

___ Alice realizes that Wonderland does not make sense and stands up to the Queen who threatens to have her head cut off: “*OFF WITH HER HEAD!*”

___ Alice follows a White Rabbit and falls down a deep rabbit hole.

___ Alice attends a crazy tea party with the Mad Hatter, a sleepy Dormouse, and the March Hare.

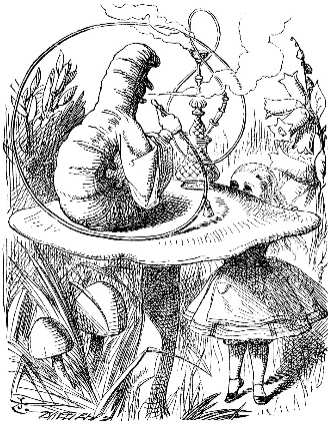
5. One of the reasons “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” was, and still is, so popular is its wonderful use of ***the imagination***. Lewis Carroll creates a place where logic as we know it in the “real world” does not exist and everything is turned upside down.

- Have a look at the picture below which is from the original book illustrations by the celebrated English artist and cartoonist **Sir John Tenniel**:



How does this picture of Alice trying to play croquet with a flamingo and a hedgehog provides a good example of how the power of the imagination is used in “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”?

- Why do you think people of all ages find the world of Wonderland so appealing and why is the book still so popular? Discuss in pairs or small groups.
- See if you can identify some of the other imaginative, larger than life characters from “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”. Match the original illustrations pictures below to the following character names: **The White Rabbit, The Queen of Hearts, The Caterpillar, The Mad Hatter, The Cheshire Cat**



PART 3: DISCUSSION POINTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Comparing Cyberland and Wonderland!

a) In scene 4 of the play Miss Anderson describes “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” as a “*classic coming-of-age story about a young girl who follows a white rabbit down a rabbit hole into a fantasy world full of nonsense, extraordinary characters and talking animals.*” How did the author of *Alice in Cyberland* use these same devices to structure her play? Do you think this was successful? Is there anything you would have done differently?

b) Why do you think the writer, Adrienne Ferguson, decided to place the action in Cyberland instead of Wonderland? Can you think of another location that might have worked?

- c) In *Cyberland* the White Rabbit becomes “The Cyber Bunny”, the Caterpillar becomes “The Chatterpillar”, The Cheshire Cat becomes “The Cryptic Kitty”, the Mad Hatter, March Hare and Dormouse become the “Mad Streamer”, “The Scrolling Hare” and “The Dormant Mouse”, and the Queen of Hearts becomes “The Queen of Screens.” Can you think of any other names for these characters?
- d) *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland* is considered a “coming of age” story meaning that Alice learns a lot about herself throughout her journey and is changed once she returns to her real life. In your own words describe what Alice is like before and after her journey to *Cyberland*. How do you think her life will change from now on?

2. *To Be or Not to Be, Online?*

The main theme of *Alice in Cyberland* is **the impact too much time online is having on young people**. In small groups or pairs discuss the following statements. Do you agree or disagree? Make sure to listen to each other even if your opinions are not the same.

- a) Too much time online can lead to a lower self-esteem if people are always comparing how many “followers” they have, or how many “likes” they get on a post.
- b) Olivia calls Nick an amateur for having 8 hours of screen time per day. Medical experts recommend no more than 1 hour to 1.5 hours of screen time per day for students ages 13-15.
- c) Social media should be banned for anyone under the age of 15.
- d) Educational professionals are worried about the impact of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, on a student’s ability to think for themselves.
- e) Social media is impacting people’s ability to connect with each other IRL.
- f) Having an algorithm feeding you content that it knows you will like could potentially stop you from seeking out new things.
- g) It can be dangerous if the only news we read is delivered to us online.

3. *Act It Out!*

One of the most entertaining scenes in *Alice in Cyberland* is Scene 10: The Virtual Tea Party. Put yourselves in groups of 4 and assign a role to each person. Choose a section of the scene that you want to work on. First read the scene out loud and then put it on its feet and add **staging**. (*Staging means the physical expression of the scene: How do the characters move around the space? What pieces of furniture or props do they use? How do they use their faces, voices and bodies to tell the story as effectively as possible?*)

Once you have practiced a few times share your interpretation with the rest of the class.

4. Use Your Imagination!

Choose from the following prompts to use your own imagination.

- a) Imagine you are the costume designer for this production and sketch some designs for your favourite characters.
- b) Create a poster or flyer advertising a production of *Alice in Cyberland* that really makes people inspired to come and see the show.
- c) Create a stage design for *Alice in Cyberland*. How does Alice get from the real world through the wormhole to Cyberland.
- d) Write a scene with a new character that Alice meets in Cyberland. Make sure you write a short character description at the top of the scene. How does this character add to the story?

“Imagination is the only weapon in the war against reality.” – Lewis Carroll