

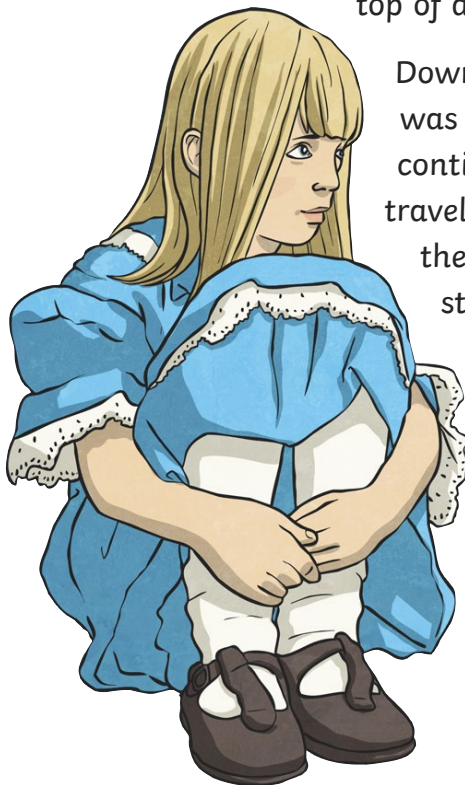
# Alice in Wonderland

This extract comes from Chapter 1. Alice has been falling down a well for a very long time and doesn't seem to be stopping.

The well was either very deep or Alice was falling very slowly. Either way, she had plenty of time to look around and to think about what was going to happen next. First, she looked down to see if she could see the bottom but it was too dark. All Alice could see was blackness. Next, she decided to look at the walls and noticed that they were covered in cupboards and bookshelves. As she continued falling, Alice took a jar of orange marmalade from one of the shelves. Disappointed that the jar was actually empty, Alice put it back inside a different cupboard as she fell past.



"Well," Alice thought to herself, "after a fall this long, I won't even mind falling down the stairs any more! In fact, I don't think I'd even mind falling from the top of a house!"



Down, down, down. Alice continued to fall and she was starting to think that it might never end. As she continued falling, she wondered how many miles she had travelled and whether she would soon reach the middle of the Earth. Then, she wondered whether she would fall straight through the Earth and come out in a different country altogether. "When I land, I shall have to ask whether I am in Australia or New Zealand," Alice decided out loud.

Down, down, down. The fall continued and, as there was nothing else to do, Alice began to talk to herself again. "Dinah will be missing me tonight," she thought. Dinah was the name of her pet cat.

Dinah was a ginger ball of fluff who was probably asleep on Alice's bed. "I hope someone will remember to feed her tonight," she continued.



"Dinah, I wish you were with me right now. There are no mice to catch in the air but we might find you a nice bat during this fall." She paused for a second and then added, "Do cats eat bats?" She liked this question so much that she continued repeating it. "Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats? Do cats eat bats?"

Before long, the question that Alice was asking had become, "Do bats eat cats?" but Alice hadn't noticed because she had started to fall asleep. She was just starting a dream in which she was asking a confused Dinah, "Do cats eat bats?" when there was suddenly a large thump! She had finally landed on a pile of leaves and twigs.

Alice was not hurt and immediately jumped to her feet. Ahead of her was a long passage with a white rabbit running along it. She began to chase the rabbit along the corridor. However, as soon as she turned a corner, the rabbit disappeared. Alice looked around and noticed that she was now in a long, low hall which was lit by many lanterns.

