

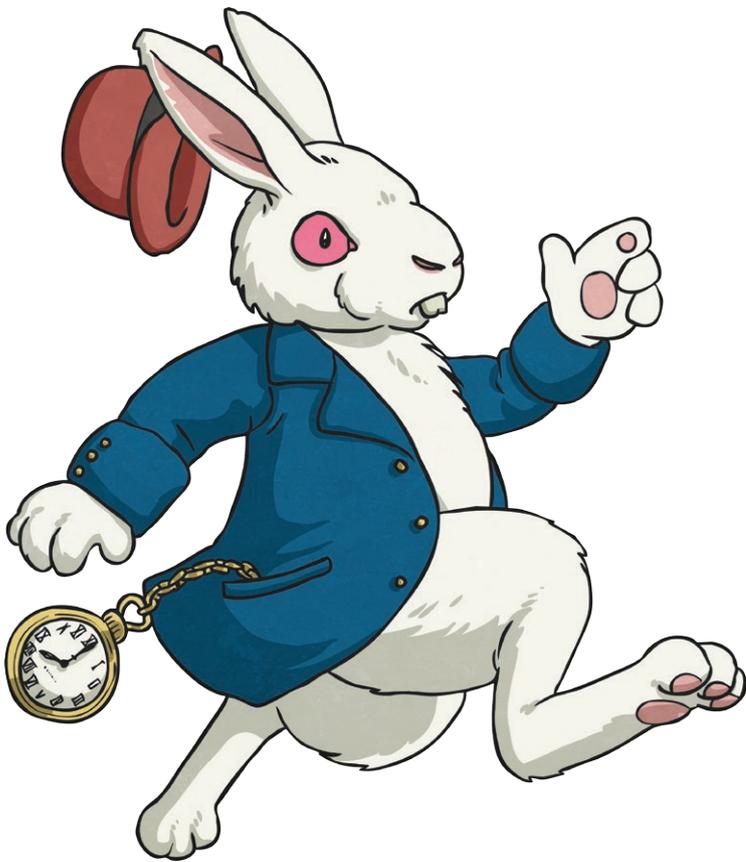
Making Inferences

When things aren't explained literally in a text, you can use clues to reach a logical conclusion. This is called inference.

Read the short story then answer the questions in full sentences.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

by Lewis Carroll - Down the Rabbit Hole



Down, down, down. Would the fall NEVER come to an end! 'I wonder how many miles I've fallen by this time?' she said aloud. 'I must be getting somewhere near the centre of the earth. Let me see: that would be four thousand miles down, I think - ' (for, you see, Alice had learnt several things of this sort in her lessons in the schoolroom, and though this was not a VERY good opportunity for showing off her knowledge, as there was no one to listen to her, still it was good practice to say it over) '- yes, that's about the right distance - but then I wonder what Latitude or Longitude I've got to?' (Alice had no idea what Latitude was, or Longitude either, but thought they were nice grand words to say.) 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 on to her feet in a moment: she looked up, but it was all dark overhead; before 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 she 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.

Questions

1. What clues from the text tell you whether Alice was anxious about her tumble or not?

2. What made Alice think that she was near the centre of the earth?

3. If Alice had tumbled so far down the well, how was it that even though she landed on some sticks and leaves, her landing did not hurt?

4. What do you think the White Rabbit could have been hurrying for?

5. If Alice was so close behind the rabbit as she turned the corner, where could it have disappeared to?

6. Did the rabbit know that he was being followed? Explain your opinion.

Answers

1. What clues from the text tell you whether Alice was anxious about her tumble or not?
In the text it says 'I wonder how many miles I've fallen by this time?' she said aloud, which may mean that she was anxious about her tumble. However, she also chatters to herself about the centre of the earth and other geographical words, which could mean that she was quite calm about her situation as her conversation doesn't mention that she is worried.
2. What made Alice think that she was near the centre of the earth?
Alice had remembered some facts from her geography lessons, and she doesn't seem quite sure but she thinks that she has fallen so far down that she must be 'four thousand miles down, I think'. She will have been disorientated during her fall and even though it would take much longer to fall that far, she thinks it must have done so.
3. If Alice had tumbled so far down the well, how was it that even though she landed on some sticks and leaves, her landing did not hurt?
If Alice had tumbled a long, long way down then she would surely have been hurt badly – even falling on sticks and leaves. Perhaps she didn't fall as far as she thought or perhaps there was some magic that cushioned her landing.
4. What do you think the White Rabbit could have been hurrying for?
The White Rabbit was heard to mutter, 'Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting!' I think he may have been late to meet someone, or perhaps he was late for his tea.
5. If Alice was so close behind the rabbit as she turned the corner, where could it have disappeared to?
Alice was so close to the rabbit as she turned the corner that he must have disappeared down another hole that she couldn't see, gone through a door off the hall, or have run so fast that she couldn't keep up with him.
6. Did the rabbit know that he was being followed? Explain your opinion.
I don't think the rabbit knew he was being followed because it doesn't say he turned around to look at Alice and he didn't talk to her.
Or
I think the rabbit must have known he was being followed because Alice was so close behind. Maybe that is why he disappeared from view.

These are the most probable answers, using evidence from the text. Other answers are acceptable if they are consistent with the text and are plausible.