

FACT-SHEET: ALICE LIDDELL

Dodgson's inspiration for Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

1. Born on 4 May 1852 at Westminster School, London, and christened "Alice Pleasance Liddell" in Westminster Abbey by her father
2. Fourth child and second daughter of the Rev. Henry George Liddell and Lorina Hannah née Reeve
3. Five brothers (Edward Henry - known as Harry, James Arthur Charles - died in infancy, Albert Edward Arthur - died in infancy, Frederick Francis, Lionel Charles) and four sisters (Lorina Charlotte, Edith Mary, Rhoda Caroline Anne, Violet Constance)
4. Father was headmaster of Westminster School from 1846 - 1855
5. In June 1855, Alice's father was appointed Dean of Christ Church, and the family moved to the Deanery in early 1856
6. Lewis Carroll first met Alice (then aged nearly four) when he was photographing the Cathedral at Christ Church in April 1856
7. Lewis Carroll took many photographs of Alice (one given above) and her siblings, Harry, Lorina and Edith
8. Alice was educated at home
9. She was particularly good at English, French and art
10. Her governess was Miss Mary Prickett, known by Alice as "Pricks"
11. Alice had short dark straight hair cut into a fringe
12. Reports say she had blue eyes, although her passport described them as "dark"
13. Lewis Carroll often visited the Deanery and entertained the Liddell children, especially when the Dean and his wife were abroad for the sake of the Dean's health
14. Lewis Carroll taught them to play croquet, and also a special version of the game that he invented called "Castle Croquet"
15. Lewis Carroll invented a card game called "Ways and Means" that he played with the Liddell children
16. On 4 July 1862, Lewis Carroll took Alice, her two sisters Lorina and Edith, together with Rev. Robinson Duckworth, on a boat trip up the River Isis (Thames) to Godstow
17. The story of *Alice's Adventures* was first told on this river trip
18. At Alice's request, Lewis Carroll wrote out the story he had invented, which he called "Alice's Adventures Under Ground"
19. Lewis Carroll wrote out the story from memory in his own neat hand; it took him several months to do so
20. He also drew pictures to illustrate the story
21. The manuscript of *Alice's Adventures* was given to Alice Liddell as an early Christmas gift in 1864
22. Friends of Lewis Carroll who had seen or heard the story beforehand strongly advised him to publish it
23. Lewis Carroll re-wrote the story for publication, adding new episodes such as the Mad Tea-Party
24. The book, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, was first published in July 1865 with illustrations by John Tenniel
25. Tenniel was not satisfied with the printing of the first edition, and it was withdrawn
26. The book was re-printed and published in December 1865, although these copies have 1866 on the title page
27. The book has never been out of print from then onwards
28. In *Alice's Adventures*, Alice's sister Lorina is the "Lory" in the "Pool of Tears"
29. In *Alice's Adventures*, Alice's sister Edith is the "Eaglet" in the "Pool of Tears"
30. All three sisters appear in the Dormouse's tale at the "Mad Tea-Party" as the three little sisters who lived at the bottom of a well, named Elsie (L. C. or Lorina Charlotte), Lacie (anagram of Alice), and Tillie (short for Matilda, the children's pet-name for Edith)
31. Robinson Duckworth was the "Duck" in the "Pool of Tears"
32. Lewis Carroll's own adopted character was the "Dodo"
33. The Prince and Princess of Wales visited Christ Church in 1863, and this event became a feature of the sequel, *Through the Looking Glass*
34. *Through the Looking Glass* was published in late 1871, but all copies of the first edition have 1872 on the title page
35. At the end of *Through the Looking Glass* there is a poem, the first letter of each line spells out Alice's name
36. When Alice was a little older she was, for a time, romantically linked with Queen Victoria's youngest son, Prince Leopold
37. Alice married Reginald Hargreaves on 15 September 1880 at Westminster Abbey. She wore a brooch from Prince Leopold on her wedding dress. They lived at "Cuffnells," a large country house at Lyndhurst in the New Forest, Hampshire
38. Alice had three sons; Alan, Leopold, known as Rex, and Caryl; Alan and Rex were both killed during the First World War
39. Alice sold her manuscript of *Alice's Adventures Under Ground* at auction in 1928, for which she received £15,400 (a very high price for a literary manuscript in those days)
40. Alice travelled to the United States of America in 1932, the centenary of Lewis Carroll's birth, in order to support an exhibition at Columbia University, New York. She was also awarded an honorary doctorate of literature while she was there.
41. Alice died at Westerham, Kent, on 15 November 1934, aged 82; her ashes were buried at Lyndhurst in the Hargreaves family tomb
42. The manuscript of *Alice's Adventures Under Ground*, went to the USA after being sold at auction, but was presented to the British nation by a group of American benefactors in 1946, and it is now in the British Library.

