

Chapter 1.

Down the Rabbit Hole

Alice **was tired of**¹ sitting near her sister on the bank of the river. **She had nothing to do**²: once or twice she looked into the book that her sister was reading. But the book had no pictures or conversations in it. "**What is the use of a book**³," thought Alice "without pictures or conversations?"

She was thinking about making a **daisy-chain**⁴ but the day was hot and she felt very sleepy and lazy. Suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran past her.

The Rabbit said to itself "Oh dear! **Oh dear, I shall be late!**"⁵ Then it took a watch out of his waistcoat-pocket, and looked at it, and hurried on. Alice stood up and **burning with curiosity**⁶ ran across the field after it. So she was **just in time**⁷ to see that the Rabbit jumped down a large rabbit hole under the hedge.

¹ **was tired of** — устала от ...

² **She had nothing to do** — ей было нечего делать

³ **What is the use of a book ...** — какая польза от книги...

⁴ **daisy-chain** — венок из маргариток

⁵ **Oh dear, I shall be late!** — О Боже, я опоздаю!

⁶ **burning with curiosity** — умирая от любопытства

⁷ **just in time** — как раз вовремя

Alice went down after it. The rabbit hole **was like**¹ a tunnel and then it suddenly went down. It was so sudden that Alice didn't have time to think. And the next moment she was falling down the **well**². The well was so deep or she was falling so slowly that she had time to look around. She saw cupboards and bookshelves, there were maps and pictures there too. But she was falling down and down. "**I must be**³ near the centre of the earth," Alice said aloud. "**I wonder if I shall fall right through the earth**⁴! How funny it will be to see people that walk with their heads down!

Down, down, down. "Dinah will miss me very much, I think!" (Dinah was the cat.) Dinah, my dear!" And Alice felt sleepy when suddenly, thump! And the fall was over — she was on a heap of dry leaves.

Alice jumped up on to her feet and looked up but it was all dark there. The White Rabbit was still hurrying along a corridor. Alice **went after him like a wind**⁵ and **heard the Rabbit say**⁶ "Oh my ears and whiskers, **how late it is!**"⁷ and it turned the corner. She turned the corner

¹ **was like** — была похожа на

² **well** — колодец

³ **I must be ...** — должно быть, я...

⁴ **I wonder if I shall fall right through the earth** — Интересно, провалюсь ли я сквозь землю?

⁵ **went after him like a wind** — помчалась за ним словно ветер

⁶ **heard the Rabbit say** — услышала, как Кролик сказал

⁷ **how late it is!** — Как поздно уже!

too but couldn't see the Rabbit. She was now in a long hall.

There were doors all around the hall but they were all locked. Suddenly Alice saw a little glass table with a tiny golden key on it. But the locks in all the doors were very large and the key was very small and it couldn't open them. But then suddenly Alice noticed a low curtain with a little door behind it. **To her great delight**¹ the golden key opened it!

Behind the door was a small corridor **which lead**² to a very beautiful garden. Alice wanted so much to be among those bright flowers and cool fountains! But even her head couldn't get through the little door. So she went back to the table **hoping**³ to find another key on it. But **this time**⁴ she found there a little bottle with a paper label with large letters on it: "DRINK ME".

Alice didn't want to do that **in a hurry**⁵. Maybe it was poison. But the bottle did NOT say "poison" so Alice tasted it and it was very nice so soon she drank it all.

"What a curious feeling!" said Alice, "**I must be shutting up like a telescope**"⁶. And now she

¹ **To her great delight** — К ее огромному восторгу

² **which lead** — который вел

³ **hoping** — надеясь

⁴ **this time** — в этот раз

⁵ **in a hurry** — в спешке

⁶ **I must be shutting up like a telescope** — Должно быть, я складываюсь, как телескоп.

was only ten **inches**¹ high. And she could go through that little door! But poor Alice! When she was near the door she remembered that the little golden key was on the table. She went back and saw that she couldn't take it from the glass table because she was too small. So she sat down and cried.

"But **there is no use in crying**²" said Alice to herself and soon she noticed a little glass box under the table. She opened it and found in it a very small cake with the words "EAT ME" in currants. She ate a little bit but nothing happened so very soon she ate all the cake.

EXERCISES

1. Find in the text the English equivalents to the following words and expressions:

устала от, берег реки, она подумывала о том, чтобы..., сказал самому себе, стораю от любопытства, кроличья нора, и в следующее мгновение, вслух, падение закончилось, вскочила на ноги, завернул за угол, крошечный, к ее огромному восторгу, другой ключ, попробовала на вкус, маленький кусочек.

¹ **inch** = 2,54 см

² **there is no use in crying** — бесполезно плакать

2. Think of the Russian equivalents to the following English words and expressions from the text:

once or twice, had no pictures, past her, hurried on, under the hedge, I wonder, a heap of dry leaves, was still hurrying, a low curtain, among, get through, paper label, ten inches high, in currants.

3. Give the reasons to the following:

- 1) Alice was tired of sitting near her sister because ...
- 2) She didn't make a daisy-chain because ...
- 3) She ran after the White Rabbit because ...
- 4) Alice had time to see cupboards and bookshelves on the walls of the well because ...
- 5) The golden key couldn't open all the doors because ...
- 6) Alice didn't want to drink the contents (содержимое) of the bottle in a hurry because ...
- 7) She sat down and cried because ...
- 8) She ate the little cake that she found under the table because ...

4. Answer the following questions:

- 1) What did Alice think about books with no pictures or conversations?
- 2) What colour were the White Rabbit's eyes?
- 3) What was the rabbit hole like?
- 4) Did Alice sing a song while she was falling down the well?
- 5) All the doors around the hall were locked, weren't they?
- 6) What did Alice see behind the little door?
- 7) How tall was Alice after she drank the contents of the bottle?

5. Agree or disagree with the following statements using the following expressions:

No, it is wrong; On the contrary; I disagree with it; That's true; I agree with it; Yes, I believe it's right.

- 1) Alice and her sister were sitting near the sea.
- 2) The day was hot and Alice felt very sleepy.
- 3) The Rabbit said to Alice: "Oh dear! Oh dear, I shall be late!"
- 4) The well was so deep or Alice was falling so slowly that she had time to look around.
- 5) Alice fell on a heap of dry leaves.
- 6) Alice's cat's name was Kitty.
- 7) The little golden key could open any door.
- 8) Alice ate all the cake.

Chapter 2.

The Pool of Tears

"**Curiouser and curiouser!**"¹ — cried Alice (she was so surprised that for the moment she forgot how to speak good English); "now **I'm opening out**² like the largest telescope! Good-bye, feet!" (she looked down at her feet and they were almost **out of sight**³). "Oh, my poor little feet, I wonder who will put on your shoes and stockings for you now, dears? I will be too far away. But I will send you a new pair of boots every Christmas. How funny it will seem!"

"Oh dear, what nonsense I'm talking!"

At that moment her head hit the roof of the hall: now she was more than **nine feet**⁴ high. So she took the little golden key again and hurried to the garden door.

Poor Alice! This time she could look into the garden with only one eye. So she sat down and began to cry again.

¹ **Curiouser and curiouser** (неправильная грамматическая форма сравнительной степени прилагательного) — любопытственнее и любопытственнее

² **I am opening out** — я раскладываюсь

³ **out of sight** — вне поля зрения

⁴ **nine feet** — девять футов, 1 фут = 30,48 см

"**You must be ashamed of yourself**¹," said Alice, "Stop this moment, I tell you!" But she continued crying and soon there was a large pool all around her.

Suddenly she heard some sound in the distance and quickly dried her eyes to see what it was. It was the White Rabbit returning. It was beautifully dressed and had a pair of white gloves in one hand and a large fan in the other. He was in a great hurry saying: "Oh! The Duchess, the Duchess!" Alice needed help so much that when the Rabbit came near her she began **in a low voice**²: "Please, sir..." The Rabbit jumped up in horror, dropped the white gloves and the fan and ran away into the darkness **as fast as it could**³.

Alice took the Rabbit's gloves and the fan and began thinking how strange everything was that day. "And yesterday **things were just as usual**⁴. **I wonder if I've been changed during the night**⁵. Who am I? That's the great puzzle!" And while she was thinking about that mystery she suddenly noticed that **she had put on**⁶ one of the Rabbit's white gloves. "How could I do that?" she thought. "Maybe I am growing small

¹ **You must be ashamed of yourself** — Тебе должно БЫТЬ СТЫДНО за себя

² **in a low voice** — ТИХИМ ГОЛОСОМ

³ **as fast as it could** — так быстро, как только МОГ

⁴ **things were just as usual** — все было как обычно

⁵ **I wonder if I've been changed during the night.** — Интересно, может, меня ночью подменили.

⁶ **she had put on** (*Past Perfect*) — она надела

again." So she went to the table to check it and found that she was now about two feet high and she was continuing to get smaller and smaller. And then she understood that it was the fan in her hand and she quickly dropped it.

"And now to the garden!" and Alice ran fast to the little door but, alas! The little door was locked again and the golden key was still on the glass table. "And I am so small now!"

As she said these words¹ her foot slipped and in another moment, splash! She was in salt water. Her first idea was about the sea. However she soon understood that she was in the pool of her own tears.

"I am so sorry I cried so much! **I will be drowned**² in my own tears! That WILL be strange! However everything is strange today!"

Just then³ she heard something splashing about in the pool and swam nearer to see what it was. At first she thought it was a walrus or a hippo but then she remembered how small she was now and understood that it was only a mouse.

"**Shall I speak to this mouse?**⁴" thought Alice. "I believe it can talk. I think I will try." So she began: "O Mouse, do you know the way out

¹ **As she said these words** — Как только она произнесла эти слова

² **I will be drowned** — Я утону

³ **Just then** — И в тот момент

⁴ **Shall I speak to this mouse?** — Поговорить ли мне с этой мышью?

of this pool? I am very tired of swimming here!" But the mouse said nothing.

"Perhaps it doesn't understand English," thought Alice; "Maybe it's a French mouse." So she began again this time with the first sentence in her French lesson-book: "**Où est ma chatte?**"¹ The Mouse jumped up out of the water in horror. "Oh, **I beg your pardon!**"² cried Alice, "I forgot you didn't like cats."

"Not like cats!" cried the Mouse. "**Would YOU like cats if you were me?**"³

"Well, perhaps not," said Alice; "don't be angry about it. But **I would like you to see**⁴ our cat Dinah. I think **you would start liking cats if you could see her**⁵. She is such a nice quiet thing."

"No! Our family always HATED cats: nasty things! I don't want to hear this name again!" the Mouse was trembling down to the end of its tail.

"I am sorry!" said Alice in a great hurry to **change the subject of conversation**⁶. "Are you

¹ "**Où est ma chatte?**" — *фр.* Где моя кошка?

² **I beg your pardon!** — Я прошу прощения!

³ **Would YOU like cats if you were me?** — А вы бы любили кошек на моем месте?

⁴ **I would like you to see** — Мне бы хотелось, чтобы Вы увидели

⁵ **you would start liking cats if you could see her** — Вы бы полюбили кошек, если бы могли увидеть ее.

⁶ **to change the subject of conversation** — сменить тему разговора

... are you fond ... of... of¹ dogs?" The Mouse didn't answer so Alice continued speaking about dogs. But the Mouse was swimming away from her.

"Mouse dear! Come back again and we won't talk about cats or dogs if you don't like them!" Alice called softly. When the Mouse heard this it turned round and swam slowly back to her. "Let us² get to the shore and I'll tell you my story and you'll understand why I hate cats and dogs," it said.

It was high time³ to go because more and more animals were swimming in the pool: there were a Duck and a Dodo⁴, a Lory and an Eaglet and several other creatures. Alice swam to the shore and everybody swam after her.

EXERCISES

1. Find in the text the English equivalents to the following words and expressions:

была так удивлена, пара сапог, Что за ерунду я говорю, ударилась о крышу, Перестань сейчас же!, красиво одет, веер, в ужасе, умчался в темноту, проверить это, увы, утону в

¹ Are you fond of...? — Вы любите ...?

² Let us... — Давайте...

³ It was high time — Давно было пора

⁴ A Dodo — дронг (не умеющая летать вымершая птица отряда голубеобразных, обитавшая на островах Индийского океана и истребленная в XVII—XVIII вв. завезенными туда свиньями)

собственных слезах, я попытаюсь, на моем месте, не сердитесь, мерзкие существа, до кончика хвоста, выбраться на берег.

2. Think of the Russian equivalents to the following English words and expressions from the text:

put on, all around her, in the distance, in a great hurry, the great puzzle, I am growing small, her foot slipped, however, something splashing about, at first, the way out, perhaps, a nice quiet thing, was trembling, called softly.

3. Who said that and why:

- 1) "Good-bye, feet!"
- 2) "Oh! The Duchess, the Duchess!"
- 3) "I am so sorry I cried so much!"
- 4) "Would YOU like cats if you were me?"
- 5) She is such a nice quiet thing."
- 6) "Let us get to the shore..."

4. Answer the following questions:

- 1) Why did Alice plan to send her feet a pair of new boots for Christmas?
- 2) Alice began crying because she couldn't get into the garden, didn't she?
- 3) What did the White Rabbit have in its hands?
- 4) What was strange for Alice that day?
- 5) Did Alice fall into the sea?
- 6) Did the Mouse understand French?
- 7) Who didn't like cats: Alice, the White Rabbit or the Mouse?
- 8) Is Alice a polite girl? Why? Or why not?

- 9) What story did the Mouse want to tell Alice?
- 10) What other creatures were in the pool?

5. Discuss the following:

- 1) Do you sometimes try to stop yourself from doing something?
- 2) Why was the Rabbit in a great hurry to the Duchess?
- 3) What would you talk to the Mouse about?
- 4) Why can a mouse hate dogs?