

Zigzag & And  
**Reading Notes — Independent Practice**  
*Down the Rabbit-Hole*

Lewis Carroll, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## 2.1 Find the words that carry meaning

**Directions:** Extract key words from each passage. Keep names, meaningful actions, important objects, and ideas that help a later reader reconstruct the event. Do not copy a whole sentence.

**Worked example:** *Alice took down a jar from one of the shelves as she passed.* becomes *Alice took jar from shelf while falling.*

1. Extract key words from: *The Rabbit actually took a watch out of its waistcoat-pocket and looked at it.*

**Solution:** Rabbit took watch from waistcoat-pocket; looked at it

2. Extract key words from: *Alice did not like to drop the jar for fear of killing somebody underneath.*

**Solution:** Alice would not drop jar; fear of hurting somebody below

3. Extract key words from: *Alice had no idea what Latitude was, or Longitude either, but thought they were nice grand words to say.*

**Solution:** Alice does not know Latitude/Longitude; likes grand words

## 2.2 Make concise notes

**Directions:** Compress each sentence into a note that another writer could use later. Preserve relationships such as cause, contrast, time, and uncertainty. Use punctuation or a symbol when it makes the relationship clear.

**Worked example:** *The hot day made Alice feel sleepy, so she considered making a daisy-chain.* becomes *hot day → Alice sleepy; considers daisy-chain.*

4. Make concise notes: *Alice started to her feet because it flashed across her mind that the Rabbit was unusual.*

**Solution:** Rabbit unusual → Alice starts to feet

5. Make concise notes: *The jar was labelled orange marmalade, but it was empty, so Alice put it into a cupboard.*

**Solution:** jar label: orange marmalade; empty → Alice stores in cupboard

6. Make concise notes: *Alice wondered whether she would fall through the earth and meet people with their heads downward.*

**Solution:** Alice wonders: fall through earth? meet upside-down people

## 2.3 Turn prose into notes

**Directions:** Convert each short passage into two or more note groups. Keep the order and the most useful evidence. A note may use an abbreviation, a symbol, or a question mark, but it must not become a disguised full sentence.

**Worked example:** *The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel, then dipped suddenly. becomes hole straight like tunnel; sudden dip.*

7. Convert to notes: *Alice looked at the sides of the well and noticed cupboards, bookshelves, maps, and pictures hung upon pegs.*

**Solution:** Alice studies well sides; cupboards + bookshelves; maps + pictures on pegs

8. Convert to notes: *Alice thought she was near the centre of the earth, although she had no exact way to measure the distance.*

**Solution:** Alice guesses: near earth centre; distance uncertain

9. Convert to notes: *Alice asked whether cats ate bats, then repeated the question because she could not answer it.*

**Solution:** asks: cats eat bats?; cannot answer → repeats question

## 2.4 Turn notes into sentences

**Directions:** Explain each set of notes in a complete sentence or two connected sentences. Decode every symbol, restore missing grammar, and preserve the logical relationship.

**Worked example:** Notes: *slow fall* → *time to observe*; *well sides* = *cupboards/shelves*.  
Explanation: *The slow fall gave Alice time to observe cupboards and book-shelves along the sides of the well.*

10. Explain: *Rabbit says late; takes watch* → *Alice curious*

**Solution:** The Rabbit said it would be late and took out a watch, so Alice became curious.

11. Explain: *well dark below; sides = maps + pictures; jar empty*

**Solution:** The well was too dark to see below, but its sides held maps and pictures, and Alice found an empty jar.

12. Explain: *Alice guesses: centre earth; Latitude/Longitude?; NZ or Australia?*

**Solution:** Alice guessed that she was near the centre of the earth, wondered about Latitude and Longitude, and imagined asking whether the country was New Zealand or Australia.

13. Explain: *sleepy* → *Dinah thoughts; cats eat bats?; repeats*

**Solution:** As Alice became sleepy, she thought about Dinah and repeated the question of whether cats ate bats because she could not answer it.