

OK! Today is Saturday, the 7th of April.

Every Saturday we have our home-reading lesson. Today we'll continue to discuss Alice's adventures in Wonderland. Your homework was to read and be able to work with **Chapter 5 «Advice from a Caterpillar»**. So, get ready and let's start our lesson.

Reading the episode 1 **Николаева Арина**

The Caterpillar and Alice looked at each other for some time in silence: at last the Caterpillar took the hookah out of its mouth, and addressed her in a languid, sleepy voice.

'Who are you?' said the Caterpillar.

This was not an encouraging opening for a conversation. Alice replied, rather shyly, 'I-I hardly know, sir, just at present- at least I know who I WAS when I got up this morning, but I think I must have been changed several times since then.'

'What do you mean by that?' said the Caterpillar sternly. 'Explain yourself!'

Question: In addition to the problem of translating proper names, there is another problem with Carroll's characters which a translator faces, as exemplified by the Caterpillar in this Chapter. What's the problem?

Answer: This is a problem with the definition of gender Carroll characters. The example of the Caterpillar proves that the gender shift may lead to the wrong perception, as in the Russian language the Caterpillar is a female character, but in the original - male (smoking hookahs in the Victorian era was typical for men, calling the Caterpillar "sir"). Some Russian translators cope with this problem, using such translations as a Worm/Червяк (B. Zakhoder), Silkworm/Шелкопряд (A. A. Shcherbakov) and a Wise caterpillar/Мудрый гусениц (M. S. Blehman).

Николаева Арина

Reading the episode 2 **Апресян Света**

'I can't explain myself, I'm afraid, sir' said Alice, 'because I'm not myself, you see.'

'I don't see,' said the Caterpillar.

'I'm afraid I can't put it more clearly,' Alice replied very politely, 'for I can't understand it myself to begin with; and being so many different sizes in a day is very confusing.'

'It isn't,' said the Caterpillar.

'Well, perhaps you haven't found it so yet,' said Alice; 'but when you have to turn into a chrysalis you will some day, you know-and then after that into a butterfly, I should think you'll feel it a little queer, won't you?'

'Not a bit,' said the Caterpillar.

'Well, perhaps your feelings may be different,' said Alice; 'all I know is, it would feel very queer to me.'

Question: There is a suggestion that the Caterpillar represents a certain image. What do you think?

Answer: The Caterpillar may represent the maturity. Alice recognizes this when she calls attention to the Caterpillar's impending bodily transformation, since caterpillars reach the maturity in butterfly form. Though she seeks guidance and compassion from the Caterpillar, she finds only further self doubt under its brusque scrutiny.

Кспоян Лена

Reading the episode 3 **Пилипцова Лера**

'You!' said the Caterpillar contemptuously. 'Who are you?'

Which brought them back again to the beginning of the conversation. Alice felt a little irritated at the Caterpillar's making such very short remarks, and she drew herself up and said, very gravely, 'I think, you ought to tell me who you are, first.'

'Why?' said the Caterpillar.

Here was another puzzling question; and as Alice could not think of any good reason, and as the Caterpillar seemed to be in a very unpleasant state of mind, she turned away.

'Come back!' the Caterpillar called after her. 'I've something important to say!'

This sounded promising, certainly: Alice turned and came back again.

Question: What trait of Alice's of character, can we mention, based on what happened before and in this episode?

Answer: Unfortunately, she defers to the Caterpillar's authority, just as she did with the White Rabbit in the previous chapter. Alice's confusion peaks when the Caterpillar seems to be able to read her thoughts, answering her unspoken question "just as if she had asked it aloud." The Caterpillar's contemptuous authoritarian presence compounds her flustered state.

Гончаров Илья

Reading the episode 4 Гончаров Илья

'Keep your temper, ' said the Caterpillar.

'Is that all?' said Alice, swallowing down her anger as well as she could.

'No, ' said the Caterpillar.

Alice thought she might as well wait, as she had nothing else to do, and perhaps after all it might tell her something worth hearing. For some minutes it puffed away without speaking, but at last it unfolded its arms, took the hookah out of its mouth again, and said, 'So you think you're changed, do you?'

'I'm afraid I am, sir, ' said Alice; 'I can't remember things as I used-and I don't keep the same size for ten minutes together!'

'Can't remember what things?' said the Caterpillar.

'Well, I've tried to say "How doth the little busy bee, " but it all came different!' Alice replied in a very melancholy voice.

'Repeat, "you are old, Father William, "' said the Caterpillar.

Question: What does it mean «Keep your temper»? Can anyone give a definition?

Answer: to keep your temper- to succeed in staying calm and not becoming angry.

Мирошник Лера

Reading the episode 5 Федорова Лиза

Alice folded her hands, and began:

«-You are old, father William," the young man said,
"And your hair has become very white;

And yet you incessantly stand on your head --
Do you think, at your age, it is right?

"In my youth," father William replied to his son,
"I feared it might injure the brain;
But, now that I'm perfectly sure I have none,
Why, I do it again and again."

"You are old," said the youth, "as I mentioned before,
And you have grown most uncommonly fat;
Yet you turned a back-somersault in at the door --
Pray what is the reason for that?"

"In my youth," said the sage, as he shook his grey locks,
"I kept all my limbs very supple
By the use of this ointment -- one shilling a box --
Allow me to sell you a couple?"

Reading the episode 6 Николаева Арина

"You are old," said the youth, "and your jaws are too weak
For anything tougher than suet;
Yet you finished the goose, with the bones and the beak --
Pray, how did you manage to do it?"

"In my youth," said his father, "I took to the law,
And argued each case with my wife;
And the muscular strength, which it gave to my jaw,
Has lasted the rest of my life."

"You are old," said the youth, "one would hardly suppose
That your eye was as steady as every;
Yet you balanced an eel on the tend of your nose --
What made you so awfully clever?"

"I have answered three questions, and that is enough,"
Said his father. "Don't give yourself airs!
Do you think I can listen all day to such stuff?"

Be off, or I'll kick you down stairs.

And now a little
bit about how
this poem is
declared by
professionals.

Question: What can you tell about this poem?

Answer: Like most poems in Alice, the poem is a parody of a poem then well-known to children, of Robert Southey's didactic poem «The Old Man's Comforts and How He Gained Them». It is about the importance of living in moderation, and many Victorian children were required to memorize it. Like the other poems parodied by Lewis Carroll in Alice, this original poem is now mostly forgotten, and only the parody is remembered.

Адамова Ева

You are old, Father William, the young man cried,
The few locks which are left you are grey;
You are hale, Father William, a hearty old man,
Now tell me the reason I pray.

In the days of my youth, Father William replied,

And now we
are going to
listen to the
original
record.

I remember'd that youth would fly fast,
And abused not my health and my vigour at first
That I never might need them at last.

You are old, Father William, the young man cried,
And pleasures with youth pass away,
And yet you lament not the days that are gone,
Now tell me the reason I pray.

In the days of my youth, Father William replied,
I remember'd that youth could not last;
I thought of the future whatever I did,
That I never might grieve for the past.

You are old, Father William, the young man cried,
And life must be hastening away;
You are chearful, and love to converse upon death!
Now tell me the reason I pray.

I am chearful, young man, Father William replied,
Let the cause thy attention engage;
In the days of my youth I remember'd my God!
And He hath not forgotten my age.

Robert Southey

Reading the episode 7 **Ануфриева Полина**

'That is not said right, ' said the Caterpillar.

'Not quite right, I'm afraid, ' said Alice, timidly; 'some of the words have got altered. '

'It is wrong from beginning to end, ' said the Caterpillar decidedly, and there was silence for some minutes.

The Caterpillar was the first to speak.

'What size do you want to be?' it asked.

'Oh, I'm not particular as to size, ' Alice hastily replied; 'only one doesn't like changing so often, you know. '

'I don't know, ' said the Caterpillar.

Alice said nothing: she had never been so much contradicted in her life before, and she felt that she was losing her temper.

'Are you content now?' said the Caterpillar.

Question: Explain the meaning of this question, please. ('Are you content now?')

Answer: Are you happy right now? (meaning her size)

Ануфриева Полина

Reading the episode 8 **Кспоян Лена**

'Well, I should like to be a little larger, sir, if you wouldn't mind, ' said Alice: 'three inches is such a wretched height to be. '

'It is a very good height indeed!' said the Caterpillar angrily, rearing itself upright as it spoke (it was exactly three inches high).

'But I'm not used to it!' pleaded poor Alice in a piteous tone. And she thought of herself, 'I wish the creatures wouldn't be so easily offended!'

'You'll get used to it in time, ' said the Caterpillar; and it put the hookah into its mouth and began smoking again.

This time Alice waited patiently until it chose to speak again. In a minute or two the Caterpillar took the hookah out of its mouth and yawned once or twice, and shook itself. Then it got down off the mushroom, and crawled away in the grass, merely remarking as it went, 'One side will make you growtaller, and the other side will make you grow shorter. '

Question: How much is it in centimeters: 3 inches?

Пилипцова Лера

Answer: 1 inch- 2,54 cm, 3 inches-7,62 cm (almost 8 cm)

Reading the episode 9 Худавердян Нели

'One side of what? The other side of what?' thought Alice to herself.

'Of the mushroom, ' said the Caterpillar, just as if she had asked it aloud; and in another moment it was out of sight.

Alice remained looking thoughtfully at the mushroom for a minute, trying to make out which were the two sides of it; and as it was perfectly round, she found this a very difficult question. However, at last she stretched her arms round it as far as they would go, and broke off a bit of the edge with each hand.

'And now which is which?' she said to herself, and nibbled a little of the right-hand bit to try the effect: the next moment she felt a violent blow underneath her chin: it had struck her foot!

Question: What useful information does the Caterpillar give to Alice?

Худавердян Нели

- a. He tells her which way to go to find the garden
- b. He tells her how to get home
- c. He tells her that one side of the mushroom will make her taller and one side will make her smaller
- d. He warns her to be careful

Reading the episode 10 Мехедова Женя

She was a good deal frightened by this very sudden change, but she felt that there was no time to be lost, as she was shrinking rapidly; so she set to work at once to eat some of the other bit. Her chin was pressed so closely against her foot, that there was hardly room to open her mouth; but she did it at last, and managed to swallow a morsel of the left hand bit.

'Come, my head's free at last!' said Alice in a tone of delight, which changed into alarm in another moment, when she found that her shoulders were nowhere to be found: all she could see, when she looked down, was an immense length of neck, which seemed to rise like a stalk out of a sea of green leaves that lay far below her.

Reading the episode 11 Мирошник Лера

'What can all that green stuff be?' said Alice. 'And where have my shoulders got to? And oh, my poor hands, how is it I can't see you?' She was moving them about as she spoke, but no result seemed to follow, except a little shaking among the distant green leaves.

As there seemed to be no chance of getting her hands up to her head, she tried to get her head down to them, and was delighted to find that her neck would bend about easily in any direction, like a serpent. She had just succeeded in curving it down into a graceful zigzag, and was going to dive in among the leaves, which she found to be nothing but the tops of the trees under which she had been wandering, when a sharp hiss made her draw back in a hurry: a large pigeon had flown into her face, and was beating her violently with its wings.

Question: By the way, there is such an idiom «a nest egg». Who knows what it means?

Мехедова Женя

Answer: a nest egg- an amount of money saved over a long period to use in the future.

Question: Why does the Pigeon feel threatened by Alice?

- a. She is afraid that Alice will grab her
- b. She is afraid that Alice will eat her eggs from the nest
- c. She is afraid that Alice will climb the tree
- d. None of the above

Апресян Света

Reading the episode 12 Любимцева Аня

'Serpent!' screamed the Pigeon.

'I'm not a serpent!' said Alice indignantly. 'Let me alone!'

'Serpent, I say again!' repeated the Pigeon, but in a more subdued tone, and added with a kind of sob,

'I've tried every way, and nothing seems to suit them!'

'I haven't the least idea what you're talking about,' said Alice.

'I've tried the roots of trees, and I've tried banks, and I've tried hedges,' the Pigeon went on, without attending to her; 'but those serpents! There's no pleasing them!'

Alice was more and more puzzled, but she thought there was no use in saying anything more till the Pigeon had finished.

Question: Who does the Pigeon mistake Alice for?

- a. A dog
- b. A cat
- c. A serpent
- d. A monster

Любимцева Аня

Reading the episode 13 Осипова Даша

'As if it wasn't trouble enough hatching the eggs,' said the Pigeon; 'but I must be on the look-out for serpents night and day! Why, I haven't had a wink of sleep these three weeks!'

'I'm very sorry you've been annoyed,' said Alice, who was beginning to see its meaning.

'And just as I'd taken the highest tree in the wood,' continued the Pigeon, raising its voice to a shriek, 'and just as I was thinking I should be free of them at last, they must needs come wriggling down from the sky! Ugh, Serpent!'

'But I'm not a serpent, I tell you!' said Alice. 'I'm a-I'm a-'

'Well! what are you?' said the Pigeon. 'I can see you're trying to invent something!'

'I-I'm a little girl, ' said Alice, rather doubtfully, as she remembered the number of changes she had gone through that day.

Question: What does it mean «not to have a wink of sleep»?

Осипова Даша

Answer: not to have a wink of sleep- to not be able to sleep.

Reading the episode 14 Шилыева Оля

'A likely story indeed!' said the Pigeon in a tone of the deepest contempt. 'I've seen a good many little girls in my time, but never one with such a neck as that! No, no! You're a serpent; and there's no use denying it. I suppose you'll be telling me next that you never tasted an egg!'

'I have tasted eggs, certainly, ' said Alice, who was a very truthful child; 'but little girls eat eggs quite as much as serpents do, you know. '

'I don't believe it, ' said the Pigeon; 'but if they do, why then they're a kind of serpent, that's all I can say. '

This was such a new idea to Alice, that she was quite silent for a minute or two, which gave the Pigeon the opportunity of adding, 'You're looking for eggs, I know that well enough; and what does it matter to me whether you're a little girl or a serpent?'

'It matters a good deal to me, ' said Alice hastily; 'but I'm not looking for eggs, as it happens; and if I was, I shouldn't want yours: I don't like them raw. '

Question: What can you tell about the mental state of Alice during this chapter?

Answer: When the Caterpillar asks Alice "Who are you," she finds that she doesn't know who she is anymore. Her identity is so confused now that her thoughts no longer seem to be her own. The Pigeon accuses Alice of being a serpent, which causes her to doubt not only who she is but also what she is. Estranged from her old self, Alice has trouble defending herself to the Pigeon. The Pigeon reasons that since Alice exhibits key traits of a serpent, having a long neck and eating eggs, she must in fact be a serpent. Alice becomes trapped in this logic so that she becomes identified by a single action and feature. The Pigeon threatens Alice's already shaken assumption of a stable identity.

Шилыева Оля

Reading the episode 15 Подольская Настя

'Well, be off, then!' said the Pigeon in a sulky tone, as it settled down again into its nest. Alice crouched down among the trees as well as she could, for her neck kept getting entangled among the branches, and every now and then she had to stop and untwist it. After a while she remembered that she still held the pieces of mushroom in her hands, and she set to work very carefully, nibbling first at one and then at the other, and growing sometimes taller and sometimes shorter, until she had succeeded in bringing herself down to her usual height.

Question: Starting with a bottle ("DRINK ME") that makes Alice shut up like a telescope, and a cake ("EAT ME") that turns her into a giant, Carroll's story often returns to the subject of food and drink. The motive of food has an important place in the book. What can you say about that?

Answer: Many of Wonderland's creatures spend their time either eating or worrying about being eaten. Some critics have suggested that the story is partly about eating disorders, pointing out that Carroll himself

Федорова Лиза

was rake-thin and rarely ate more than biscuit for lunch. Others have seen it as an elaborate celebration of the picnic teas he provided for the Liddell children. What almost everyone agrees on is that Alice's sudden physical changes comically reflect on an inevitable fact of life. Fictional children can stay the same age forever, but real children grow up.

Question: Give me a definition of «every now and then», please.

Answer: every now and then -from time to time; occasionally.

Подольская Настя

Reading the episode 16 Адамова Ева

It was so long since she had been anything near the right size, that it felt quite strange at first; but she got used to it in a few minutes, and began talking to herself, as usual. 'Come, there's half my plan done now! How puzzling all these changes are! I'm never sure what I'm going to be, from one minute to another! However, I've got back to my right size: the next thing is, to get into that beautiful garden-how is that to be done, I wonder?' As she said this, she came suddenly upon an open place, with a little house in it about four feet high. 'Whoever lives there,' thought Alice, 'it'll never do to come upon them this size: why, I should frighten them out of their wits!' So she began nibbling at the right hand bit again, and did not venture to go near the house till she had brought herself down to nine inches high.

Question: How much is in centimeters: 9 inches?

Answer: 1 inch- 2,54 cm, 9 inches-22,86 cm(almost 23 cm)

Адамова Ева

Quiz

1. Why is Alice so confused about who she is?

a) she doesn't know where she is b) she cannot remember her name c) she keeps changing size

2. What important thing does the Caterpillar tell Alice? a) "Go back home" b) "Keep your temper" c) "Remember your manners"

3. What poem does the Caterpillar ask Alice to repeat? **You are Old, Father William**

4. T F True or **False**: Alice tells the Caterpillar that she wishes she were a little taller than 5 inches. **She wants to be taller than 3 inches**

5. The Caterpillar tells Alice that "One side will make you grow taller, and the other side will make you grow shorter." Of what is he speaking? a) mushroom b) cakes c) bread d) house

6. What happened when Alice took the first bite? a) her chin struck her foot b) she fainted c) her head soared above the trees d) she got very sick

7. Fill in the Blank: After Alice took a second bite, her neck resembled that of a serpent.

8. T F **True** or False: The Pigeon was scared of Alice and called her a serpent.

9. Fill in the Blank: The Pigeon tells Alice that she must be kind of serpent if she eats _____. a) meat b) veggies c) eggs d) fruits

10. T F **True** or False: Alice continued to nibble bits from each side until she was at her usual height.

Spot the difference



Word Scrabble

WONDERLAND, ALICE, WHITE RABBIT, JAM TARTS, CHESHIRE CAT,
QUEEN OF HEARTS, CROQUET, ROSES

Words: Федорова Лиза, Гончаров Илья, Шиляева Оля

Translations: Мехедова Женя, Худавердян Нели, Ануфриева Полина

Summaries: Мирошник Лера, Федорова Лиза