

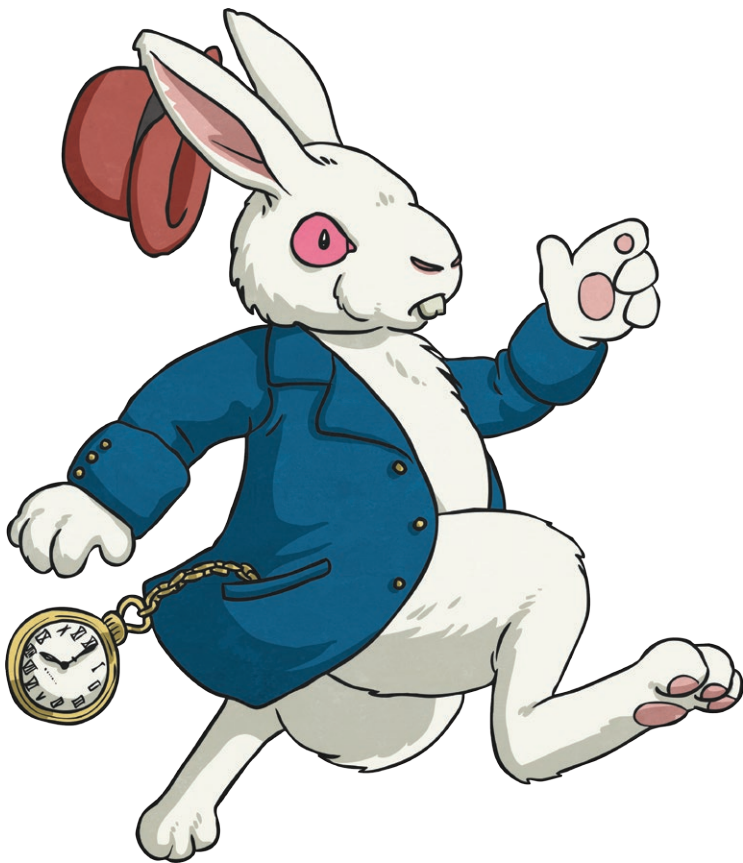
Making Inferences

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



Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, 'and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice 'without pictures or conversation?'

So she was considering in her own mind (as well as she could, for the hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid), whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

There was nothing so very remarkable in that; nor did Alice think it so very much out of the way to hear the rabbit say to itself,

'Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!' (when she thought it over afterwards, it occurred to her that she ought to have wondered at this, but at the time it all seemed quite natural); but when the rabbit actually took a watch out of its waistcoat pocket, and looked at it, and then hurried on, Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind that she had never before see a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.

In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again.

Questions

1. Why does Alice feel tired if she is doing nothing?

2. Why do you think Alice believes that a book with no pictures is useless?

3. Alice says that a hot day makes you feel stupid. Do you agree with her? Explain your opinion.

4. If the White Rabbit had not come along, do you think Alice would have made a daisy chain? Why do you think that?

5. If Alice had thought for a moment about following the White Rabbit, do you think she would have jumped into the hole? Why do you think that?

Answers

1. Why does Alice feel tired if she is doing nothing?
Alice feels tired even though she isn't doing anything because when you relax and do nothing it can make you feel sleepy and more exhausted than if you were busy.
2. Why do you think Alice believes that a book with no pictures is useless?
I think that Alice believes a book with no pictures in it is dull and not very interesting. Pictures to illustrate a book can bring the words to life and make the pages attractive and inviting to the reader.
3. Alice says that a hot day makes you feel stupid. Do you agree with her?
 Explain your opinion.
A hot day can make you feel stupid because it can seem to take more energy to think properly when all you want to concentrate on is to sit in the shade and cool down.
4. If the White Rabbit had not come along, do you think Alice would have made a daisy chain? Find and copy evidence from the text to back up your opinion.
I think Alice would have made a daisy chain if the White Rabbit hadn't come along because she 'was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do'.
Or
I don't think Alice would have made a daisy chain if the White Rabbit hadn't come along because she wondered if it 'would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies'.
5. If Alice had thought for a moment about following the White Rabbit, do you think she would have jumped into the hole? Why do you think that?
If Alice had thought for a moment about how she was going to get out of the hole, she may have decided not to follow the White Rabbit. If she got stuck down the hole, who would know she was there and who could find her and pull her out?
Or
If Alice had thought for a moment about how she was going to get out of the hole, she may still have decided to follow the White Rabbit. If she was hot and bored, she may have wanted an adventure and following the rabbit may have been more exciting than sitting with her sister on the bank.

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.