

# Reading an example of adventure fiction

## Extract from Chapter One of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll



### **Extract summary:**

In this extract Alice is sitting drowsily by a riverbank, bored by the book her older sister reads to her. Out of nowhere, a white rabbit runs past her, fretting as is it will be late. The Rabbit pulls a watch out of his waistcoat pocket and runs across the field and down a hole. Alice impulsively follows the rabbit and tumbles down the deep hole that resembles a well, falling slowly for a long time.

**Extract 1:** 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 conversations?" So she was considering, in her own mind, 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 too late!" 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 seen 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 was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.

### **TASKS:**

1. Read the extract from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (above).
2. Highlight / underline any parts that show you this novel could be considered an adventure story.
3. Write one of the quotes you have highlighted here and explain how it shows the idea of 'adventure' .

**QUOTE:** \_\_\_\_\_

This shows the idea of adventure because: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Extract 2:** In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again. The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well.



Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly, for she had plenty of time as she went down to look about her and to wonder what was going to happen next. First, she tried to look down and make out what she was coming to, but it was too dark to see anything; then she looked at the sides of the well, and noticed that they were filled with cupboards and book-shelves; here and there she saw maps and pictures hung upon pegs. She took down a jar from one of the shelves as she passed; it was labelled 'ORANGE MARMALADE', but to her great disappointment it was empty: she did not like to drop the jar for fear of killing somebody, so managed to put it into one of the cupboards as she fell past it.

'Well!' thought Alice to herself, 'after such a fall as this, I shall think nothing of tumbling downstairs! How brave they'll all think me at home! Why, I wouldn't say anything about it, even if I fell off the top of the house!'

Down, down, down...When suddenly, thump! thump! down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the fall was over.

Alice was not a bit hurt, and she jumped up on to her feet in a moment: she looked up, but it was all dark overhead; before her was another long passage, and the White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying down it. There was not a moment to be lost: away went Alice like the wind, and was just in time to hear it say, as it turned a corner, 'Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting!' She was close behind it when she turned the corner, but the Rabbit was no longer to be seen.

4. A student read the extract from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and said: '*The writer makes me think that Alice is about to have an amazing adventure.*' To what extent do you agree?

**In your answer, you should:**

- state whether you agree or disagree with the statement and explain why
- include evidence (quotes) from the extract to support your opinion
- explain what each quote tells the reader about Alice's fantasy land / adventure
- pick out some individual words or techniques used by the writer and explain their effect
- include your personal opinion – are you interested in Alice's fantasy land? Why, or why not?

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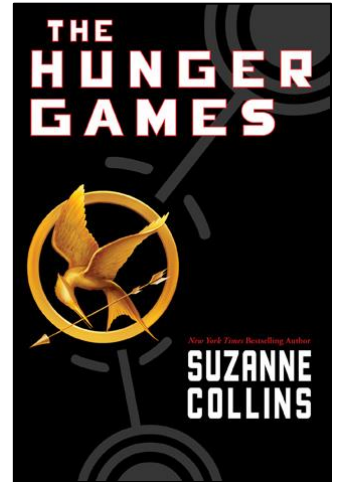
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## Setting: The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins

Our house is almost at the edge of the seam. I only have to pass a few gates to reach the scruffy field called the Meadow. Separating the meadow from the woods, in fact enclosing all of District 12, is a high chain-link fence topped with barbed wire loops. In theory, it's supposed to be electrified twenty-four hours a day as a deterrent to the predators that live in the woods – packs of wild dogs, lone cougars, bears – that used to threaten our streets. But since we're lucky to get two or three hours of electricity in the evenings, it's usually safe to touch. Even so, I always take a moment to listen carefully for the hum that means the fence is live. Right now, it's silent as a stone. Concealed by a clump of bushes, I flatten out on my belly and slide under a meter-long stretch that's been loose for years. There are several other weak spots in the fence, but this one is so close to home I almost always enter the woods here.



As soon as I'm in the trees, I retrieve a bow and sheath of arrows from a hollow log. Electrified or not, the fence has been successful at keeping the flesh-eaters out of District 12. Inside the woods they roam freely, and there are added concerns like venomous snakes, rabid animals, and no real paths to follow. But there's also food if you know how to find it. My father knew and he taught me some ways before he was blown to bits in a mine explosion. There was nothing left of him to bury. I was eleven then. Five years later, I still wake up screaming for him to run.

In the woods waits the only person with whom I can be myself. Gale. I can feel the muscles in my face relaxing, my pace quickening as I climb the hills to our place, a rock ledge overlooking a valley. A thicket of berry bushes protect it from unwanted eyes. The sight of him waiting there brings on a smile. Gale says I never smile except in the woods.

### TASKS:

- Read The Hunger Games extract (above).

Highlight/ underline any parts that show you this story could be considered an adventure story.

Write one of the quotes you have highlighted here and explain how it shows the idea of 'adventure'.

### CHALLENGE: How does the narrator (Katniss Everdeen) feel about the setting?

Explain your answer and include quotes in your response.

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## Setting: *The Chronicles of Narnia* – C.S. Lewis

Every moment the patches of green grew bigger and the patches of snow grew smaller. Every moment more and more of the trees shook off their robes of snow. Soon, wherever you looked, instead of white shapes you saw the dark green of firs or the black prickly branches of bare oaks and beeches and elms.

Then the mist turned from white to gold and presently cleared away altogether. Shafts of delicious sunlight struck down on to the forest floor and overhead you could see a blue sky between the treetops. Soon there were more wonderful things happening.

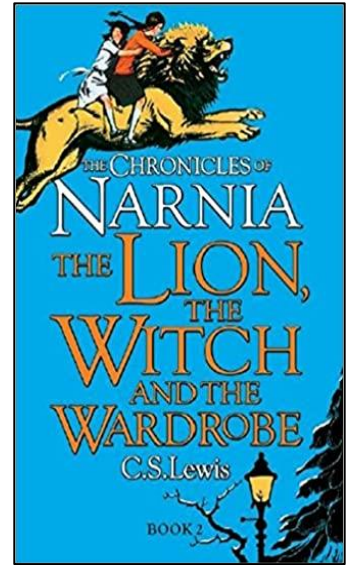
Coming suddenly round a corner into a glade of silver birch trees, Edmund saw the ground covered in all directions with little yellow flowers. The noise of water grew louder. Presently they crossed a stream. Beyond it they found snowdrops growing.

Only five minutes later, Edmund noticed a dozen crocuses growing round the foot of an old tree - gold and purple and white.

Then came a sound even more delicious than the sound of the water. Close beside the path they were following, a bird suddenly chirped from the branch of a tree. It was answered by the chuckle of another bird a little further off. And then, as if that had been a signal, there was chattering and chirruping in every direction, and then a moment of full song, and within five minutes the whole wood was ringing with birds' music, and wherever Edmund's eyes turned he saw birds alighting on branches, or sailing overhead or chasing one another or having their little quarrels or tidying up their feathers with their beaks.

There was no trace of the fog now. The sky became bluer and bluer, and now there were white clouds hurrying across it from time to time. In the wide glades there were primroses. A light breeze sprang up which scattered drops of moisture from the swaying branches and carried cool, delicious scents against the faces of the travellers.

The trees began to come fully alive. The larches and birches were covered with green, the laburnums with gold. Soon the beech trees had put forth their delicate, transparent leaves. As the travellers walked under them the light also became green. A bee buzzed across their path. "This is no thaw," said the dwarf, suddenly stopping. "This is Spring."



### TASKS:

- Read the *Chronicles of Narnia* extract (above).

Highlight/ underline any parts that show you this story could be considered an adventure story.

CHALLENGE: How does the writer make you feel about this setting?

Explain your answer and include quotes in your response.