***Through the Looking Glass***

***Chapter 1***

***Looking-Glass House***

***Summary:***

* The narrator begins by telling us that "it" – whatever "it" is – is the fault of the black kitten, not the white one. The white one has been having its face washed by the old cat and couldn't be responsible.
* "It" turns out to be the unwinding of an enormous ball of yarn that Alice spent a long time winding up earlier, before taking a nap.
* Alice catches the black kitten and scolds it. Holding and talking to the kitten, she begins winding up the yarn again.
* Alice tells the kitten that there is going to be a bonfire tomorrow. Then she tries winding yarn around the kitten's neck, but the kitten doesn't like this.
* Alice begins wondering aloud about punishment, since she's been thinking about how she needs to punish the kitten. She's been saving the kitten's punishments for all the naughty things it does, and she wonders what it would be like if her nurse and parents saved all her punishments up for the end of a year.
* Looking outside, Alice watches the snow fall and admires the winter landscape.
* Alice asks the kitten if it can play chess. She thinks maybe it can, because it seems to look very intently at the pieces when Alice is playing. She pretends that the kitten is the Red Queen, since it looks a little bit like that piece.
* The kitten won't cooperate with Alice's attempts to fold its paws in the position of the Red Queen's arms. She holds it up to the mirror over the fireplace as a punishment and threatens to put it through into Looking-Glass House.
* Alice tells the kitten what she imagines about Looking-Glass House, the backwards version of her own house that she can see in the mirror. She longs to get through the mirror and explore the parts of it that aren't visible.
* Alice tells the kitten that they'll pretend the glass is going soft like gauze and they're going through. And then it actually happens! Alice (without the kitten) makes it through the mirror and into Looking-Glass World.
* Alice jumps off the mantelpiece into the room and begins exploring. The parts of the room that she couldn't see in the mirror are the most exciting and strange.
* Looking at the hearth, Alice notices that the chess pieces have come to life and are walking around in the cinders. She gets on her hands and knees to watch them, discovering that she is invisible to them.
* One of the White Pawns on the table has a fit, crying and screaming. The White Queen tries to get back to it but has trouble climbing up the table. Alice picks her up and puts her beside her daughter.
* The Queen is startled but eventually recovers her breath and warns the White King that there is a volcano nearby that might blow up to the table. Alice picks up the White King and puts him onto the table also, pausing to dust him off with her hand, since he's covered in cinders.
* The White King is deeply shocked by the experience of being lifted and dusted by an invisible hand. He decides to make a memorandum of his experience in his notebook so that he won't forget about it, but when he takes out his book and pencil Alice holds onto the end of it and writes her own memorandum.
* Next, Alice sees a book lying on the table. She opens it, only to discover that all the words are printed backwards. She holds it up to the mirror and reads it in the reflection.
* Verse Alert: Alice reads a poem from the book called "[**Jabberwocky**](https://www.shmoop.com/jabberwocky/)." We have a lot to say about this poem, so go check it out in the poetry section.
* Alice doesn't really understand the poem, but decides to leave the house and explore. She rushes out of the room, floats down the stairs, and heads out the door.

***Summary in Brief:***

Alice rests at home in an armchair, talking drowsily to herself as her black kitten, Kitty, plays with a ball of string at her feet. Alice lovingly scolds the kitten for unraveling the ball of string that she had been winding up. She goes on to scold Kitty’s mother, Dinah, who is busy bathing the white kitten Snowdrop. Alice begins an imaginative conversation with Kitty, pretending that her pet talks back, and asks her to pretend that she is the Red Queen in a chess game. Alice attempts to arrange Kitty’s forelegs to better resemble the chess piece. When Kitty does not comply, Alice holds her up to the mirror above the mantle and threatens to put Kitty into the world on the other side of the mirror, which she calls “Looking-Glass House.” Alice thinks about what Looking-Glass House must be like, wondering aloud to Kitty if there might be a way to break through to the other side of the mirror. All of a sudden, Alice finds herself on the mantle, staring into the mirror. She magically steps through the mirror into Looking-Glass House.

On the other side of the mirror, Alice looks around and finds that the room she is standing in resembles the mirror image of the room in her own house. However, several parts of the room look quite different. The pictures on the wall near the mirror seem to be alive, and the mantle clock has the face of a grinning little man.

Alice notices a group of chessmen inside the fireplace among the cinders, walking in line two-by-two. Alice examines them closely and determines that she is invisible to them. She hears a squeak behind her. Alice wheels around to find a White Pawn on the table. Out of the fireplace charges the White Queen, who knocks over the White King in her haste, rushing to grab her child. Alice helpfully lifts the White Queen onto the table, and the White Queen gasps in surprise as Alice grabs the Queen’s child Lily. The White King follows, but he quickly grows impatient. Alice lifts him up, dusts him off, and places him down next to the White Queen. The White King lies on his back, stunned in surprise, which causes Alice to realize that she is invisible to the chessmen. Once the White King recovers, he pulls out a pencil and begins jotting his experience down, but Alice snatches the pencil from him and writes something down in his book. The White King comments that he must get a new book, since strange words seem to appear on the pages of his current one.

Alice picks up one of the books from the table and discovers that the text is backward. She holds the book up to the mirror to read it properly and reads the poem on the page. The poem, entitled “Jabberwocky,” describes a knight’s travels to vanquish a hideous monster known as the Jabberwock. Perplexed by the poem, Alice sets the book down and decides to explore the rest of the house. As she leaves the room and begins heading down the stairs, she finds herself floating until she finally catches hold of the door-post to the door that leads outside of Looking-Glass House.

***Brief Analysis:***

In his stories, Carroll blurs the boundaries between being awake and being asleep so that it becomes difficult to tell where reality ends and dreaming begins. At the beginning of the chapter, Alice enjoys a drowsy winter nap near the fire. She leaves her chair only to snatch up Kitty and place her on her knee. Alice dozes off in this position, and her step through the mirror happens in her dream. Since she is only half asleep, Alice’s experiences combine elements from the waking world and her dreams. The dream motif of Through the Looking-Glass differs from the one found in Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, for here Alice exercises some control over what she encounters in her fantasy world. Alice’s repeated pleas to Kitty to play pretend emphasize her desire to exert some control over her imagination.

Alice discovers that the room on the other side of the mirror is nearly identical to her old room, showing the motif of inversion that reappears throughout the text. The alternate dimension is not just a mirror image, but a comprehensive inversion of reality. In Looking-Glass House, Alice no longer needs a fire, since the winter of the real world becomes summer in the imagined world, where the gardens are in bloom and the trees are filled with leaves. Even the inanimate objects in Alice’s old room, such as the pictures and the mantle clock, spring to life. Alice appears invisible to the chess pieces, which is one aspect of the inversion that occurs in Looking-Glass House. In Alice’s world, she is alive while the chess pieces are inanimate, but Looking-Glass World belongs to the chess pieces, where they have a working order to their lives. Like the chessboard, their lives are highly symmetrical and controlled.

Alice’s invisibility suggests that she maintains a godlike power over the chessmen of Looking-Glass World, which stems from the fact that the whole universe exists as part of her imagination. Alice picks up the White King as if she were a divine power manipulating the lives of the chess pieces. This establishes the idea of the chessboard as a plane of existence upon which individuals are positioned like chess pieces and moved around according to predetermined rules. Inside the house, Alice’s invisibility allows her to be an unseen hand, but the image of the chessboard gains its full significance in the next chapter when she joins the chess game outside. There, Alice becomes a chess piece herself, manipulated by an unseen hand, presumably the authorial hand of Carroll. The imposition of this hand starts to become apparent when Alice loses control over her body and floats down the stairs, propelled forward toward her destiny by the unseen hand of the author.

***Critical Study:***

[Alice](https://www.gradesaver.com/through-the-looking-glass/study-guide/character-list#alice), who has been half-asleep and talking to herself, notices that her ball of yarn has come unraveled. She blames the mischief on Kitty, who is not the middle of being cleaned by Dinah. While she scolds Kitty, she imagines that Kitty responds defiantly to all of her accusations.

Alice then becomes distracted by the winter weather, commenting on how the boys were gathering wood for the bonfire but that it soon became too cold for the activity. She muses about the changing seasons, speculating that during the winter, the trees and fields must sleep beneath the blanket of snow, but that in spring and summer, they turn green and dance. The narrator remarks meanwhile that Alice is prone to flights of fancy which often begin with her saying "let's pretend."

Alice, who has been trying to get Kitty to imitate the [Red Queen](https://www.gradesaver.com/red-queen) chess piece, turns her attention to the looking glass, in which she imagines that there is another home, very much like her own, but in which some things are reversed. She wishes longingly for the glass to dissolve so that she can step into that other world. Suddenly, the glass becomes misty, and Alice enters the alternate universe that is a reflection of her own world.

Inside, she notices that there is a fire like the one in her hearth. She notices that the clock has the face of an old man which smiles at her. She also sees that the room is not kept as tidy as the one she left, for there are chess pieces all over the floor. When she gets closer to them, she realizes that they are talking and moving.

The White Queen seems to have lost her daugher, Lily, so Alice decides to reunite them by lifting up the Queen and setting her back on the table. The Queen seems to think that she has been relocated by a volcano, as they are near the fire, so Alice concludes that she cannot be seen or heard in this world. She does the same for the King, and also dusts him off, all of which makes him extremely frightened.

She notices a book and tries to read, but at first she does not understand the language. Then she realizes that the text must be reversed since she is in the looking-glass world, so she holds the book up to the glass. The text is revealed to be the poem Jabberwocky, the language of which she still does not understand. Alice, feeling like she will not have time to see everything if she lingers, floats downstairs and out the door to explore the garden.

[Lewis Carroll](https://www.gradesaver.com/author/lewis-carroll) was known for his love of contrast, so it makes sense that this book opens with a scene indoors in the middle of winter. [Alice in Wonderland](https://www.gradesaver.com/alice-in-wonderland), contrarily, opened on a sunny May afternoon. The date is also significant, for when Alice is talking to Kitty, she implies that there is going to be a holiday the following day. She is in fact referring to Guy Fawkes Day, November 5th, the night before which was traditionally celebrated with a bonfire at Christ Church, where Carroll studied, lived, and wrote.

The kitten Snowdrop is an example of Carroll including elements from his own life in his literature. He was good friends with a man named George Macdonald, whose daughter Mary had a kitten named Snowdrop. It is actually this family that played a large role in encouraging Carroll to publish *Alice in Wonderland*, so perhaps the mention of the kitten Snowdrop is a subtle thanks to them.

In this chapter, the reader is introduced to the theme of inversion, which is pervasive throughout the book. Carroll was in fact obsessed with this notion in real life. He wrote some of his letters in mirror writing, and some he wrote starting with the last word and ending with the first. He also drew pictures that turned into other pictures when they were turned upside down.

It is unclear why he nurtured this obsession. One explanation, judged to be inadequate, is that he was left-handed but was forced to use his right, so the inversion techniques were a part of some grand revenge for this travesty. Carroll did do a great deal of work in mathematics and logic, and it is perhaps this passion that encouraged him to explore logical contradiction.

The inclusion of the poem "Jabberwocky" in the book is anything but random. The poem is universally considered to be the greatest nonsense poem in the English language, and it was incredibly popular, especially among schoolboys, during the late 19th century. Carroll originally wanted to put the entire poem in reversed form, but inevitably decided on just the first verse. In a periodical Carroll wrote at the age of 23 to amuse his friends, he provided explanations for all the nonsense words in the first verse, all of which vary from Humpy Dumpty's versions later in the book.

Later work in physics confirmed that there would be dire consequences for the Alice that entered the Looking-Glass world. It is clear that she remained herself when she entered, because she has to hold the book up to a mirror to read it. In this case, her normal matter would clash with all the anti-matter around her, and there would likely be an explosion. This is humorous in light of her speculation about Looking-Glass milk, which is most likely not at all nutritional.

***Critical Analysis:***

[Alice](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Through-the-Looking-Glass/character-analysis/#Alice) is watching her cat, Dinah, groom her two kittens. She is restless and bored, and in peering through the looking-glass, she decides to enter the world on the other side of it. Once there, she observes chess pieces "walking about, two by two." She sees the [White Queen](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Through-the-Looking-Glass/character-analysis/#White_Queen) and King and the [Red Queen](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Through-the-Looking-Glass/character-analysis/#Red_Queen) and King. When the daughter of the [White King](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Through-the-Looking-Glass/character-analysis/#White_King) and Queen—a pawn—rolls over, the White Queen knocks over the White King to reach the child. Alice, deciding to help, moves the Queen to the pawn and does the same with the King. When the King writes in his memorandum book, Alice realizes that to read a "Looking-glass book" she must hold it up to a mirror. This technique allows her to read the poem, "Jabberwocky."

The poem is filled with words that lack definition because they are not pre-existing words. The story in the poem warns of the "Jabberwock," as well as the "Jubjub bird" and the "frumious Bandersnatch." The hero of the poem slays the Jabberwock with his "vorpal blade." Alice struggles to understand the poem and departs.

Whereas [Carroll](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Through-the-Looking-Glass/author/) intended *Alice in Wonderland* as simply a childhood adventure, its sequel, *Through the Looking-Glass*, is his wistful commemoration of [Alice](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Through-the-Looking-Glass/character-analysis/#Alice)'s journey toward adulthood. [Chapter 1](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Through-the-Looking-Glass/chapter-1-summary/) reintroduces two characters from the *Wonderland* narrative, and both have changed since the conclusion of that story. Dinah, Alice's pet cat has matured from a kitten to an adult with young ones of her own. In *Wonderland* Alice's adventure came by accident when she tumbled into a rabbit hole. The adventure wasn't one of her own pursuit, nor was she prepared to adjust to the curious creatures she encountered there. In Carroll's sequel Alice seeks out the adventure. She wants to go through the looking-glass and see more of the room she spies in the mirror.

Once Alice enters this inverted world, she quickly adjusts to the phenomenon of living chess pieces. She demonstrates a growing ability to solve puzzles as she uses a mirror to read reverse-image text.

Although Alice trips up on the poem, "Jabberwocky," she does manage to understand the basic element of its message: "somebody killed something: that's clear at any rate." Carroll's poem has become one of the most famous examples of nonsense verse written in English, and Alice is so struck with its language she asks Humpty Dumpty for an explanation of its vocabulary in [Chapter 6](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Through-the-Looking-Glass/chapter-6-summary/).

Since so many of "Jabberwocky's" key words are Carroll's own nonsense terms, he chose to offer pronunciation guides in the preface. As Alice finds, the poem's standard storyline aids comprehension despite the many nonsense words: there is a frightening beast and there is a hero who slays the beast.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

The narrator explains that what's going to happen is all the fault of the black kitten, [Kitty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters). The white kitten, [Snowdrop](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters), is busy—her mother, [Dinah](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters), is washing her face—but Kitty amuses herself by playing with [Alice](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/alice)'s ball of yarn and unwinding it. Alice kisses and scolds Kitty and then takes the kitten back to her chair to wind up the yarn again. As she works, Alice tells Kitty that she's been looking out the window and watching boys gathering wood for the bonfire tomorrow. She loops some yarn around Kitty's neck, which results in Kitty trying to play and again sending the ball of yarn to unravel across the room.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Alice's observation about the boys gathering firewood is a reference to Guy Fawkes Day, a UK holiday in November. This situates the story as taking place in early November, six months after Alice's first foray into Wonderland. Talking to her kittens like this suggests that Alice is pretty alone right now and doesn't have many people to talk to. Childhood is, for her, a lonely affair.

***Summary Part 2:***

[Alice](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/alice) scolds [Kitty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters) more. She threatens to put Kitty out in the snow and then lists Kitty's faults. She says that Kitty cried while [Dinah](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters) was washing her face and then Alice imagines that Kitty objects by insisting that Dinah's paw went into her eye. Alice tells Kitty to close her eyes next time. She accuses Kitty of pushing [Snowdrop](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters) away from the saucer of milk and then of unwinding all her yarn. Sternly, Alice says that she'll punish Kitty for all of these crimes on Wednesday. She becomes introspective and wonders what would happen if adults saved up all of her punishments. She reasons that she'd either go to prison or be made to go without dinner, which she wouldn't mind.

***Analysis Part 2:***

With Kitty, Alice is able to play at being an adult. She can experiment with how to best punish Kitty for her mischief and then think about how it might feel if she were in Kitty's position. This shows that Alice is already starting to grow up, as she's able to take these complex ideas and think about how they apply to her in different situations. Scolding Kitty specifically about being unhelpful during her bath is a very adult thing to do—getting children to bathe can be a struggle for plenty of parents.

***Summary Part 3:***

[Alice](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/alice) chatters happily about how pretty the snow looks and how all the trees and fields must be sleeping until summer. She then asks [Kitty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters) if she can play chess. Alice laments that she almost won the last game and says that they should pretend that Kitty is the [Red Queen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/the-red-queen). In an aside, the narrator notes that Alice's favorite phrase is “let's pretend,” but few others in her life find it as charming as she does. Alice tries to convince Kitty to fold her arms to look like the Red Queen, but the kitten refuses. As punishment, Alice holds the kitten up to the looking-glass and threatens to send it into Looking-glass House.

***Analysis Part 3:***

Alice shows here that she has an expansive imagination and has no problem dreaming up fantastical happenings. In this instance, however, Alice is entirely in charge of what's going on. This is in direct opposition to how Alice feels for much of her time in her dream of being in Looking-glass World, where Alice often feels alone and out of control. In this instance, Alice almost feels more adult since she is the one in control.

***Summary Part 4:***

[Alice](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/alice) tells [Kitty](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters) about Looking-glass House. Its drawing room looks just like Alice's drawing room, but she can't see all of it and wants to know if they actually have fires in winter there. She says that there are books, but the words are backwards. Alice wonders if they'd give Kitty milk in Looking-glass House, and if milk there is good to drink. She notes that if the door to the drawing room is open she can see down the hallway of Looking-glass House, but she suspects that everything beyond the hall is very different from what's at the end of her house's hallway. Excitedly, Alice suggests that they pretend they can get through the mirror. She crawls onto the fireplace mantel and pushes through the glass.

***Analysis part 4:***

At this point, Alice believes that Looking-glass World must follow a set system: it's a mirror world so, of course, things are backwards and opposite of what they are in Alice's world. This conclusion shows first that Alice wants to make sense of the world around her, and then that Alice is going to enter Looking-glass World expecting to find systems in place that are easily discernable. Those systems make Alice feel more comfortable and in control in a new world.

***Summary Part 5:***

In the Looking-glass room, [Alice](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/alice) is delighted to see a blazing fire. The pictures on the wall seem to be alive, and the clock on the mantel has a face and smiles. She notices that the room isn't as neat as the other room and notices that there are chessmen on the hearth, walking two by two. In a whisper, Alice notes that she can see the [Red King](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters) and the [Red Queen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/the-red-queen), as well as the [White King](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/the-white-king) and the [White Queen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/the-white-queen). The pieces seem not to hear or see Alice. A white pawn on the table begins to squeal. The White Queen cries that her baby, [Lily](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters), needs help and in her haste, she knocks the White King into the cinders. Wanting to be helpful, Alice lifts the queen and puts her down by Lily.

***Analysis Part 5:***

In this scene with the normal-size chessmen, Alice gets to play the role of a god and move the figures around without them knowing that she's there. This idea will come up again later, and it refers to a religious theory circulating in the Victorian era that humans exist in God's dream—in this situation, Alice gets to feel as though she's truly the one in charge. Keep in mind for later that being the god is comfortable for Alice, while possibly being the subject of another god later isn't as easy to swallow.

***Summary Part 6:***

The [White Queen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/the-white-queen) gasps in surprise and sits next to [Lily](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters) to catch her breath. She shouts at the [White King](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/the-white-king) to "mind the volcano" and come up to the table normally. [Alice](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/alice) watches for a moment as the king struggles to climb and finally decides to help. She picks him up gently but, since he's covered in ash, decides to dust him. The king's mouth and eyes grow wide and round and the sight is so funny that Alice nearly drops him as she laughs. She puts him down. The king remains flat on his back and, fearing that he needs to be revived, Alice looks around for water to throw on him. She finds only a bottle of ink.

***Analysis Part 6:***

The way that Alice modifies her behavior as to keep the White King comfortable shows that she's a sensitive child who wants to care for others by being kind and polite. This suggests that Alice is an individual who will try to follow the rules and regulations wherever she is so that she and others can be comfortable and know how to behave—but this desire will prove difficult to act on in Looking-glass World.

***Summary Part 7:***

When [Alice](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/alice) returns to the table with the ink, she listens to the [White Queen](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/the-white-queen) and the [White King](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/the-white-king) discussing what happened. The king declares that he'll never forget the horror of what happened, but the queen points out that he'll forget if he doesn't “make a memorandum of it.” The king pulls out a giant memorandum book (a notebook) and a huge pencil and begins writing. Alice grabs the end of the pencil and writes that the [White Knight](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/characters/the-white-knight) is sliding down the fireplace poker. The king struggles until finally he bursts out that he needs a thinner pencil.

***Analysis part 7:***

The White King and Queen propose here that a person can only remember something if they make a conscious effort to do so. Alice's mischievous choice to grab the pencil and write for the king shows how easy it can be for others to manipulate memories, even if the way to do that is silly and nonsensical—or, in this case, not something that even really registers with the king.

***Summary Part 8:***

Alice notices a book on the table. She flips through it, but thinks it's in a foreign language. After a minute, she realizes that it's a Looking-glass book and, if she holds it up to a mirror, she'll be able to read it. She does and reads the poem “[Jabberwocky](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/through-the-looking-glass/symbols/the-poem-jabberwocky).” The poem tells the story of a young boy slaying a Jabberwock and the boy's father praising him for it, but the language is unintelligible. When she's done reading, Alice declares that the poem seems pretty, but hard to understand. The narrator notes that she’s unwilling to confess that she doesn't understand it. She tries to figure it out, but realizes that she needs to explore the rest of the house before she goes back. She floats down the stairway and steps into the garden.

***Analysis part 8:***

Alice's assessment of "Jabberwocky"—that it's pretty, but apart from the broad strokes, is unintelligible—is an encapsulation of how "Jabberwocky" functions in the novel. It exists to show Alice and the reader that something doesn't have to make sense to be recognizable or be fun. Alice and the reader can enjoy the poem without knowing what a Jabberwock looks like or what all the nonsense words mean, and the fact that it's fun can be the final interpretation of the poem.

***Quotations:***

***Quotation1:***

"Now, if only you'll attend, Kitty, and not talk so much, I'll tell you all my ideas about Looking-glass House. First, there's the room you can see through the glass – that's just the same as our drawing-room, only the things go the other way. I can see all of it when I get upon a chair – all but the bit just being the fireplace. Oh! I do so wish I could see that bit! I want so much to know whether they've a fire in the winter: you never can tell, you know, unless our fire smokes, and then smoke comes up in that room too – but that may be only pretence, just to make it look as if they had a fire. Well then, the books are something like our books, only the words go the wrong way: I know that, because I've held up one of our books to the glass, and then they hold up one in the other room." (Looking-Glass 1.11)

***Explanation:***

Looking-Glass World is the opposite of Alice's England, but it's also more than that. Some things in it are simply backwards – the words going the other way in the book, for example. But everything that's not directly reflected in the mirror might be different. Alice can't depend on things being the exact opposite in all cases.

***Quotation 2:***

Then she began looking about, and noticed that what could be seen from the old room was quite common and uninteresting, but that all the rest was as different as possible. For instance, the pictures on the wall next the fire seemed to be all alive, and the very clock on the chimney-piece (you know you can only see the back of it in the Looking-glass) had got the face of a little old man, and grinned at her. (Looking-Glass 1.14)

***Explanation 2:***

When Alice passes through the Looking-Glass, she immediately discovers that this world is more than just the opposite of England. In fact, the things that were out of sight in the mirror are even stranger than backwards versions of the things that she knows.