



Old text

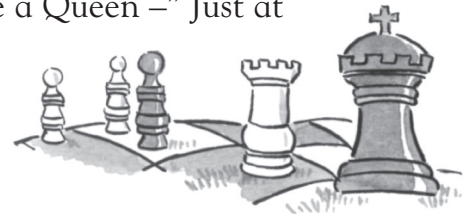
Read this **extract** carefully, then answer, in complete sentences, the questions that follow.

For some minutes Alice stood without speaking, looking out in all directions over the country – and a most curious country it was. There were a number of tiny little brooks running straight across it from side to side, and the ground between was divided up into squares by a number of little green hedges, that reached from brook to brook.

“I declare it’s marked out just like a large chess-board!” Alice said at last. “There ought to be some men moving about somewhere – and so there are!” she added in a tone of delight, and her heart began to beat quick with excitement as she went on. “It’s a great huge game of chess that’s being played – all over the world – if this *is* the world at all, you know. Oh, what fun it is! How I *wish* I was one of them! I wouldn’t mind being a Pawn, if only I might join – though of course I should *like* to be a Queen, best.”

She glanced rather shyly at the real Queen as she said this, but her companion only smiled pleasantly, and said “That’s easily managed. You can be the White Queen’s Pawn, if you like, as Lily’s too young to play; and you’re in the Second Square to begin with: when you get to the Eighth Square you’ll be a Queen –” Just at this moment, somehow or other, they began to run.

From *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll



Who is the **main character** in this story?

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Where is the setting of this place? Describe in your own words.

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Does Alice expect to enjoy this part of her adventure or not? How can you tell?

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Why would Alice rather be a queen than a pawn?

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Which side is Alice about to play for?

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Can you find any words or phrases to suggest that this was written a long time ago?

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New text



Read this **extract** carefully, then answer in complete sentences, the questions that follow.

They followed, running again. Once inside the house, with its maze of corridors, they could lose her. But there she was – they heard her first, those dragging footsteps. Then, hurrying, they saw her blue cloak, fair head. She pushed a huge panelled door and passed through, leaving it open behind her. They reached it and peered in just in time to see Sarah passing through yet another door on the far side of a room that was evidently part of the main house. There was heavy, gleaming furniture, walls lined with gilt-framed pictures, richly draped windows. Minty set off across it ...

They were through the second door now, and into an amazing crimson. ‘Cor!’ Tom was awestruck. ‘Red Drawing Room, this is! Heard about it! Cor! Ain’t it just red?’

It was. Carpet, walls, hangings smouldered, blazed. The very air breathed red.

Sarah had vanished. Minty crossed the room and came into a vast light entrance hall. There, on the great black and white diamonds of the floor, was that small blue figure, a chess piece.



At that moment there came other footsteps, a clatter and rattle. Sarah stopped in her tracks, Minty and Tom stiffened.

From *Moondial* by Helen Cresswell

Where is the setting of this place? Describe in your own words.

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Name the three characters in this part of the story.

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Why do you think Sarah is described as “a chess piece?”

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Have you heard the saying “a pawn in the game?” What does it mean?

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Is the next part of this story likely to be funny or threatening? How can you tell?

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Is this extract more modern than the older extract? Give reasons for your answer.

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Comparing texts

Use the following questions to help you **plan** a **comparison** of both the **extracts** from the previous exercises.

Underline the words of the **narrator** in both extracts. Write a sentence comparing them.

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Draw a circle around the **conversations** in both extracts. What differences can you see?

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Compare the **styles** of the two authors (their particular way of writing).

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Which of these terms could be used for the stories: **traditional**, **fantasy**, **novel**, **adventure**, **autobiography**, **romance**, **historical**?

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Would you like to read more of either of these books? Which one and why?

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Now write a **summary** of your **views** on these two extracts. Make sure you base your arguments on the words in the text. Remember to use **paragraphs**. Begin here, and continue on a separate sheet of paper.

Comparing the styles of two writers



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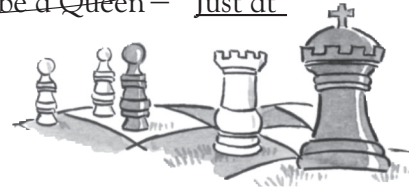
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From *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll



Who is the **main character** in this story?

The main character in this story is Alice.

Where is the setting of this place? Describe in your own words.

The setting is in a strange country with streams and hedges forming squares like those on a chessboard.

Does Alice expect to enjoy this part of her adventure or not? How can you tell?

Yes. Alice sounds delighted and is very excited about joining in the game.

Why would Alice rather be a queen than a pawn?

The queen is far more important and powerful than a pawn.

Which side is Alice about to play for?

Alice is about to play for the white team.

Can you find any words or phrases to suggest that this was written a long time ago?

Phrases that suggest this was written a long time ago include: a most curious country it was; I declare; Oh what fun it is!; How I wish I was one of them.

In these exercises, your child compares two extracts from children’s books. They are from different periods in time, but share a similar theme. Check that your child writes his or her answers in complete sentences.

New text



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From *Moondial* by Helen Cresswell

Where is the setting of this place? Describe in your own words.

The setting is inside a big old house. Most of it takes place inside a red drawing room.

Name the three characters in this part of the story.

The three characters in this part of the story are Sarah, Minty and Tom.

Why do you think Sarah is described as “a chess piece?”

Sarah is described as “a chess piece” because she is standing on a floor that looks like a chessboard.

Have you heard the saying “a pawn in the game?” What does it mean?

If someone is described as being “a pawn in the game,” it means that he or she has very little control over what happens.

Is the next part of this story likely to be funny or threatening? How can you tell?

The next part of the story is likely to be threatening. The noises are ominous, and the characters seem tense.

Is this extract more modern than the older extract? Give reasons for your answer.

This extract is more modern than the earlier one. Although the character Tom uses old-fashioned phrases, the descriptive language is modern.

This page features a modern extract that shares a similar theme to the older extract given in the previous exercise. Talk about the text together before your child answers the questions. Check your child’s handwriting, and point out areas that need further practice.



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fantasy, novel, adventure
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Comparing the styles of two writers



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This page enables your child to write in detail about his or her response to the texts from the previous exercises. It may be helpful to talk about the questions with your child: this will help provoke the sort of discussion that takes place in a classroom.