

Lewis Carroll

Charles Dodgson (1832 – 1898) was a mathematics lecturer at Oxford University. He was also the author of several books for children, which he wrote under the pen-name, Lewis Carroll. His two most famous books are:

Alice's Adventures In Wonderland and Through The Looking Glass.

These books have always been popular with mathematicians and you should read them. It might be best to read The Annotated Alice by Martin Gardner as this book explains the jokes and the logic which are easy to miss. Here are some quotes from these books:

Alice laughed, "There's no use trying" she said, "one can't believe impossible things."

"I daresay you haven't had much practice," said the Queen. "When I was younger, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

"Take some more tea" the March Hare said to Alice very earnestly.

"I've had nothing yet" Alice replied in an offended tone "so I can't take more."

"You mean you can't take less" said the Hatter "it's very easy to take more than nothing"

"Then you should say what you mean," the March Hare went on.

"I do, " Alice hastily replied, "at least I mean what I say, that's the same thing, you know."

"Not the same thing a bit!" said the Hatter. "Why, you might just as well say that "I see what I eat" is the same thing as "I eat what I see!"

"It's very good jam," said the Queen.

"Well, I don't want any to-day, at any rate."

"You couldn't have it if you did want it," the Queen said. "The rule is jam tomorrow and jam yesterday but never jam to-day."

"It must come sometimes to "jam to-day," Alice objected.

"No it can't," said the Queen. "It's jam every other day; to-day isn't any other day, you know."

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean, neither more nor less."

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things."

"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master, that's all."