

LEWIS CARROLL

LIFE (1832 - 1898)

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, better known by his pen name Lewis Carroll, was a professor of mathematics at Oxford University. While teaching and writing books on mathematics, Dodgson gave expression to the other side of his personality, writing fantasy books. He was born in Cheshire into a large family; he remember his infancy as a period of great happiness, a kind of Wonderland, which he retained as an adult, and reproduced in his fantasy writing for the benefit of the other children, in particular of the little Alice Liddell, to whom he dedicated *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

ACHIEVEMENT

Lewis Carroll is regarded as England's greatest fantasy writer. He shares with Edward Lear, a writer of "nonsense verse" and James Matthew Barrie, the author of Pater Pan, the ability to see the world with the eyes of a child, and at the same time find in fantasy a way expressing their own need to escape the constrictions of Victorian age.

Besides *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, he wrote its sequel *Through the Looking Glass*.

ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

The prevailing theme in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* is the theme of reversal. "Wonderland" is set in an underground world of nonsense and absurdity, where not only the "aboveground" manners and costumes are questioned, but also the notions of educations, logic, identity, sanity, space and time are ridiculed.

Alice dreams she pursues a White Rabbit down a rabbit-hole to an underground world, or "Wonderland", where she encounters such strange creatures as the Duchess and the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter and the March Hare, the King and the Queen of Hearts, and the Mock Turtle.

These strange creatures are free from facts and common sense, and are at the same time frighteningly aggressive and self-righteous, as adults can be.