**Alice In Wonderland**

Alice in Wonderland, the book written by Lewis Carroll, is a story about a girl named Alice who fell through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures. It is said that this story was created on 4th of July 1862. when Alice Liddell and her sisters asked Charles Dodgson ( Lewis Carroll) to tell them a story on a boating trip in Oxford. Later on, Alice told him to write that story down, so he did.

In the Victorian age, children’s stories were full of morals. Their main role was to educate ( children). Since Alice in Wonderland wasn’t intended to be anything else but amusement for Lewis and his child friends, it became the first children’s book without a moral. Even though it lacks a moral, Alice in Wonderland contains a lot of hidden meanings on a much deeper level that can be understood differently by every individual (by children and adults) .

The protagonist in this book is obviously, Alice. Her character leads us throughout the book. We can see the significant change in her thoughts and opinions while she wanders around in this strange world surrounded by these mad beings. These beings try to confuse, order or even behead Alice. Even the ones who are somewhat good to her manage to baffle her. Every time Alice meets a new character she gets into a conflict or just has a really unusual discussion with them. Conflicts usually end up with everyone telling Alice how immature she is and that she has yet much to learn.

Alice in Wonderland contains a lot of themes and motifs. In my opinion, the main theme here would be the theme of growing up. What is represented here is simply a description of how a young child sees the adult world. The world with a bunch of silly rules that we have created for ourselves. As if we can’t go on without them. It got to the point where we don’t even ask ourselves ‘why’. This leads to the incomprehensible behavior that Alice experiences in Wonderland. But during the journey through this world, Alice learns how to adopt in this adult world. In fact, she is growing up.

But before she could truly grow up she needs to understand the importance of her personal identity. She is constantly expected to represent herself in Wonderland. The problem is, she can’t do that, because she still doesn’t know who she really is. She starts to question her identity, especially when she gets mistaken for someone else several times by some of the creatures. This made very unsure and hesitant many times while talking to someone.

All in all, after some time, she realized the fact that ‘everyone is mad here’ just like the Cheshire Cat said, and slowly learns to cope with the crazy Wonderland rules and handles the situations better. She becomes more confident of herself and her own identity. So confident that she adapts completely and loses most of her vivid imagination that comes with childhood. She realizes what the creatures in Wonderland really are ‘nothing but a pack of cards’. At this point, she has matured too much to stay in Wonderland, the world of the children, and wakes up into the ‘real’ world, the world of adults.