

Comparing Characters

Alice & Mary

In the passages below, Mary Lennox from *The Secret Garden* and Alice from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, are two young girls who both find themselves in strange new places. Read the passages below and compare how they respond to their new surroundings.

The Secret Garden

On and on they drove through the darkness, and though the rain stopped, the wind rushed by and whistled and made strange sounds. The road went up and down, and several times the carriage passed over a little bridge beneath which water rushed very fast with a great deal of noise. Mary felt as if the drive would never come to an end and that the wide, bleak moor was a wide expanse of black ocean through which she was passing on a strip of dry land.

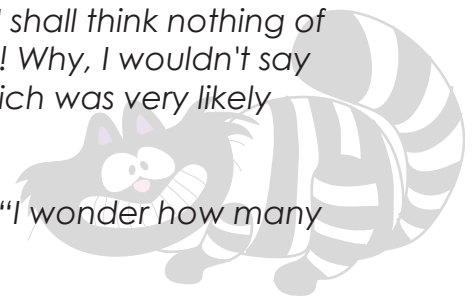
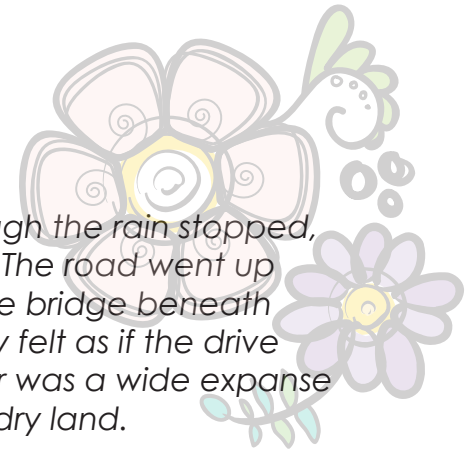
"I don't like it," she said to herself. "I don't like it," and she pinched her thin lips more tightly together.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

Either the well was very deep, or she fell very slowly, for she had plenty of time as she went down to look about her and to wonder what was going to happen next. First, she tried to look down and make out what she was coming to, but it was too dark to see anything; then she looked at the sides of the well, and noticed that they were filled with cupboards and book-shelves; here and there she saw maps and pictures hung upon pegs. She took down a jar from one of the shelves as she passed; it was labeled 'ORANGE MARMALADE', but to her great disappointment it was empty: she did not like to drop the jar for fear of killing somebody, so managed to put it into one of the cupboards as she fell past it.

"Well!" thought _____ to herself, "after such a fall as this, I shall think nothing of tumbling down stairs! How brave they'll all think me at home! Why, I wouldn't say anything about it, even if I fell off the top of the house!" (Which was very likely true.)

Down, down, down. Would the fall NEVER come to an end! "I wonder how many miles I've fallen by this time?" she said aloud.



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Use the chart below to record any similarities or differences in the way Mary and Alice respond to the places they are entering. You might not have an answer for each box on the table.

	Similarities	Differences
Places		
Character's thoughts and attitudes. Are they positive or negative?		
Characters' actions. Even very small actions are important.		

Look at the chart. How are Alice and Mary different from one another? Fill in the blanks to create a comparison.

Even though Mary and Alice both _____,
they are very different people. When Mary finds herself in a _____ place she
_____, whereas Alice in a _____
place _____.