

Childhood Innocence, Dreams Versus Reality and Identity in Lewis Carroll's Select Works

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Abstract

Lewis Carroll is the pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. He was an English author, photographer and poet. He is notable for inculcating a lot of fantasy in his novels. Wordplay abounds in a number of his works. He was born in Cheshire, England. He was deeply involved in children's literature and fantasy literature. He was also a scholar and the teacher. It is a notable fact that he was also a mathematician. This paper studies some of the author's critically acclaimed works.

Keywords: Lewis Carroll, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Through the Looking Glass

I. INTRODUCTION

Lewis Carroll is the pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson. He was an English author, photographer and poet. He is notable for inculcating a lot of fantasy in his novels. Wordplay abounds in a number of his works. He was born in Cheshire, England. He was deeply involved in children's literature and fantasy literature. He was also a scholar and the teacher. It is a notable fact that he was also a mathematician.

II. ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is a children's novel. Children's novels come under the genre of children's literature. It describes a story of Alice, a little girl who falls through a rabbit hole. The rabbit hole leads her to a world of fantasy. This world is filled with anthropomorphic beings. Anthropomorphism refers to the attributing of emotions and traits associated with humans, whereas personification refers to attributions of similar traits to inanimate and natural forces. This novel also comes under the genre of literary nonsense. It also comes under the owner of portal fantasy. In portal fantasy, characters enter the fantasy world and the fantastical elements are restricted i.e., there is a clear boundary between the real world and the fantasy world. In *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Alice falls asleep on a meadow, and has a dream that she is following a White Rabbit, and enters a rabbit hole. There, she finds many strange and fabulous creatures. She grows as huge as a house, and at other times she shrinks in size. She encounters a caterpillar that smokes as well, and a Cheshire cat. She has a tea party with the March Hare and the Mad Hatter. The March Hare is the host of the tea party and has an unpredictable nature. Alice is later accused of stealing the Queen's Tarts. Hence the Queen orders for Alice to be beheaded. At this point, Alice wakes from her dream. Childhood innocence, dreams versus reality and identity are some of the core themes of the novel.

III. THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

Through the Looking Glass is a novel published in 1871. Alice again enters fantastical world. In this world, everything is reverse, akin to a reflection. In this world, everything happens in the opposite way. Some examples include the fact that walking away from something actually brings someone towards it, and running starts making someone stationary. This is a fantasy world located inside a looking glass. Alice finds a book with its text written from backwards. She also sees a clock that is smiling, chess pieces that are alive, as well as talking flowers. She meets the Red Queen who tells her that she is part of a chess game.

Alice encounters a shop which can shape shift into a boat. Inside that shop, there is an egg that can transform into Humpty Dumpty. Humpty Dumpty is an egg but has clothes and a face. Alice later encounters two nights

who fight with each other in order to decide who could take Alice as prisoner. The Red Knight ultimately wins. Alice is later quizzed by the Red and White Queens. Childhood, innocence, dreams versus reality and identity are the core themes of the novel.

REFERENCES

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