



Old text

Read this extract carefully, then answer, in complete sentences, the questions that follow.

For some minutes Alice stood without speaking, looking out in all directions over the country – and a most curious country it was. There were a number of tiny little brooks running straight across it from side to side, and the ground between was divided up into squares by a number of little green hedges, that reached from brook to brook.

"I declare it's marked out just like a large chess-board!" Alice said at last. "There ought to be some men moving about somewhere – and so there are!" she added in a tone of delight, and her heart began to beat quick with excitement as she went on. "It's a great huge game of chess that's being played – all over the world – if this is the world at all, you know. Oh, what fun it is! How I wish I was one of them! I wouldn't mind being a Pawn, if only I might join – though of course I should like to be a Queen, best."

She glanced rather shily at the real Queen as she said this, but her companion only smiled pleasantly, and said "That's easily managed. You can be the White Queen's Pawn, if you like, as Lily's too young to play; and you're in the Second Square to begin with: when you get to the Eighth Square you'll be a Queen –" Just at this moment, somehow or other, they began to run.

from Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll



Who is the main character in this story?

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Where is the setting of this place? Describe in your own words.

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Does Alice expect to enjoy this part of her adventure or not? How can you tell?

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Why would Alice rather be a queen than a pawn?

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Which side is Alice about to play for?

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Can you find any words or phrases to suggest that this was written a long time ago?

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