

# **The New Neighbor**

Based on Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

By Alena Kehm 5th grade

"I wish I was back in the rabbit hole," thought Alice, as she studied her arithmetic. It was a long, everyday, droning-on and on, process.

"Alice! Come here," called her mother.

"Coming!" replied Alice.

Her mother was waiting in the parlor. "Mrs. Finch made these sugar cakes just so you could welcome our new neighbors," said her mother.

"Supposedly there is a girl just your age. You two could do your school work together!" Alice's mother added excitedly.

Ever since the "rabbit incident" (this phrase was what Alice's mother called Alice's time in the rabbit hole), Alice's mother had tried to get Alice occupied with something else, other than her so called "dreams".

"Oh all right," said Alice. Anything to get away from arithmetic.

"And please act polite and proper," half begged her mother.

"Of course," replied Alice snidely.

"Please," her mother was now completely begging.

Alice bolted out the door and into the back yard.

"Don't run, you'll spill the cakes!" called Alice's mother. But Alice was too far ahead to hear.

The neighbor's house was three stories, but still short, with a brown outside and blue shutters. Alice knocked three times.

"Coming! Coming!" called an annoyed elderly voice. "Hello?" The woman standing in the doorway was pudgy with gray, frazzled hair tucked under a bonnet in a loose knot. She was wearing a white, old-fashioned dress, with a black apron.

"Hello," said Alice in her politest voice. "I'm here to welcome you. How are you settling in?"

Alena Kehm  
2nd place  
5th grade

"Well, thank you," said the woman. "But I'm not the one to ask. I'm only the house maid," she said in an annoyed voice as she disapprovingly flared her nostrils.

"Well my mother told me there's a girl my age living here,"

"She's probably talking about Lonna," sighed the house maid. "Up the stairs second door on the right," "She's unpacking in the attic."

"Thank you" said Alice.

"Oh and, well.....these are for her," said Alice as she thrust the plate of sugar cakes at the woman.

"Ugh" sighed the maid.

Straight ahead was a polished wooden staircase with a marble railing. Alice walked to it and then dashed upward. She heard the housemaid muttering something under her breath about Alice being "such an impolite tomboy".

Just as the maid had said, the second door on the right led to a large room with boxes upon boxes stacked up together to form as sort of wall. There was also a familiar looking rabbit sitting in the corner in a cage.

"Who is it?" asked a bossy voice. A girl about Alice's age was sitting behind the wall of boxes. "Who are you?" she asked rudely.

"Oh I'm Alice. Your housemaid told me you were up here. I'm your new neighbor."

"Oh" said the girl. "Well, my name's Lonna."

"What's your rabbit's name, over in the cage?" asked Alice.

"Name?" questioned the girl.

"You don't have a name for your rabbit?"

"No, he's a captive" replied Lonna flatly.

"What! That's terrible!" exclaimed Alice. But before the girl could answer, her mother called.

"Coming!" shouted Lonna. "Now you wait here and don't open or even touch those boxes! You hear me?!"

"Yes" answered Alice quietly. Lonna bolted down the stairs.

Alice walked over to the rabbit's cage. "Are you alright?" she asked.

"No" replied the rabbit fearfully. "That Lonna took me from the rabbit hole!". (Alice was not surprised one bit by the talking rabbit for she was used to it.)

"How awful!" exclaimed Alice.

"I'm terribly late too!" said the rabbit as he worryingly pulled out a pocket watch.

**"Wait .Are you the late rabbit from the rabbit hole! The one that I saw?" asked Alice.**

**"What? Pffff no!" said the rabbit. "He's too old, he can barely walk! But, I'm his son."**

**"How wonderful!" exclaimed Alice.**

**"And guess what else she took? The Cheshire Cat! Well, at least his nephew."**

**"No!"**

**"Yes! He's in that box" said the rabbit, pointing. Alice walked over, opened the box, and right there was, yes, the Cheshire Cat with his big toothy grin.**

**"Well I'm taking you both to the rabbit hole!" Alice grabbed the rabbit and the Cheshire Cat and, with both of them in her arms, she ran down all the stairs and out the door.**

**"Goodbye Lonna" she yelled defiantly. "I hope you move!"**

**Then she took them both to the rabbit hole and plopped them in, saying "Now you two keep everyone away from her--she's evil!"**

**Soon Lonna moved and there was no trouble with her ever again! ( Alice got to go back to Wonderland too!)**