

Of Names and Nonsense

Play and Identity in the Works of Charles Dodgson

Katie Fields

Undergraduate Research Day

24 April 2010

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland



What do we know about
it?

Alice in Wonderland



- Adaptations
 - Stage
 - Film

Characters



Mad Hatter

Caterpillar

White Rabbit

Queen of Hearts

Alice

Themes



- Transformation
 - Size
 - Anthropomorphization
- Wordplay
 - Literalism
 - Poetry
 - Play on other children's literature

Audience



- Is it just a children's book?
- What differences exist for child, casual adult, and critical adult readers?

Sylvie and Bruno



Why has no one ever
heard of it?

What is it about?



- Adult and child storylines
- Morality
- Science, religion, human companionship

Charles Dodgson



- Mathematician
- Deacon

Lewis Carroll



- Children's author
- Photographer

Identity



- Author
- Reader
- Character

The Appeal of Nonsense



- Defies didacticism
- Harmless
- Interpretable
- Playful

Images

Slide 2: <http://www.victorianweb.org/art/illustration/tenniel/alice/2.2.jpg>

Slide 3: <http://www.mindflare.com/celgallery/alice2m.jpg>

Slide 4: <http://likeawhisper.files.wordpress.com/2010/03/johnny-depp-mad-hatter-burton-wonderland.jpg>

Slide 5:

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/56/Alice_par_John_Tenniel_32.png

Slide 6: http://cmisevalff.edublogs.org/files/2009/11/alice_01c-486x500-291x300.jpg

Slide 7:

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/d/d7/Sylvie_and_Bruno_illustration_page_11.png

Slide 8: <http://www.davidwheldon.co.uk/hfurniss.JPG>

Slide 9: <http://www.alice-in-wonderland.net/alicepic/people/lewis-carroll.jpg>

Slide 10: http://georgemacdonald.info/lewis_carroll_1863.jpg

Slide 11: <http://graphics8.nytimes.com/images/2008/02/24/opinion/25alice.1-190.jpg>

Slide 12: <http://www.1st-art-gallery.com/thumbnail/188638/1/The-Mad-Hatters-Tea-Party,-Illustration-From-Alices-Adventures-In-Wonderland,-By-Lewis-Carroll,-1865.jpg>