

SAMPLE OF ESSAY LETTER #3

THIS WRITER IS A GENIUS

Dear Mrs. Mahoney,

Lewis Carroll was a pure genius when I consider how he used 3 concepts: plots and subplots, dialogue and setting to show the idea that leaving childhood and going into the adult world is scary.

The plots which Carroll used in Alice in Wonderland were wacky and twisted. First Alice is in Jolly Old England and all of a sudden she's down a rabbit hole where all sorts of unlikely things happen: a bottle with a label "Drink Me" which makes her shrink, a Cheshire cat who appears and disappears and an angry queen who insists that everyone lose their heads literally. The genius of his plot is that he makes it work. Even though it's a random collection of events, Carroll strings it together with the idea of Alice on a journey where she is trying to escape becoming an adult. It becomes a sort of magical realism where the unlikely is accepted by the reader because it's a childhood experience of imagination.

Furthermore, the plot is strengthened by the dialogue which is used to develop characters and suggest the concept of identity. The caterpillar asks Alice "Who are you?" and as she changes in size shrinking and growing, we begin to see that Alice is caught between being a child and an adult. Alice is constantly offending characters unintentionally with her childlike observations such as "You're enormous". The dialogue also shows the adult world as the Queen is unkind and impulsive: "What a little twit!". This dialogue suggest that the adult world Alice is about to enter is not a kind or frivolous one.

The most interesting part of the novel is the variety of settings in Wonderland where unusual and unlikely events happen. Where else can you find a bunch of animals holding a tea party and a dormouse sleeping in a tea pot. Even in the beginning of Alice's journey she's in a hole where doors are either too big or too small and once she finds a key, she's unable to reach it because she's too small. The hole itself is full of "maps and pictures" as well as "cupbaords and bookshelves" and even a jar of marmalade. The house where Alice becomes stuck is also strange and suggests that she's getting too big for her childhood world. Even the court where Alice must defend herself is run by animals who judge her and make her feel uncomfortable.

Carroll uses these settings to show how Alice is at an awkward age between childhood and being a young lady.

All in all, Carroll should be considered a true genius for using these 3 concepts.