

IDEAS FOR PREPARATION AND CURRICULUM LINKS

Here are some ideas for activities you might like to explore with your class before the performance. They can be adapted according to the age and interests of the children, and are intended as starting points for discussion and creativity.

1. Lewis Carroll

Who was Lewis Carroll?

Find out about Lewis Carroll and his life. What was his real name? Where did he live and work? What can you discover about the inspiration behind *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*?

You could also explore some of the unusual characters, places and ideas in the story and discuss what makes Wonderland such an imaginative world.

2. Create Your Own Wonderland

English • Art • Drama • Music

Read the opening of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, up to the moment when Alice decides to follow the White Rabbit.

What do you think might happen next?

Why not create your own adventure for Alice? You could:

- Write the next chapter of the story.
- Draw or paint a new scene from Wonderland.
- Act out your adventure for the class.
- Compose music or create sounds to accompany your story. What might Wonderland sound like? How could music represent Alice, the White Rabbit or another character?

There is no right or wrong answer — let your imagination take you down the rabbit hole!

3. Meet the Composers

Music • History • Listening

The performance features music by a number of great composers, including Ravel, Mozart and Walton.

What can you find out about them?

- When and where were they born?
- What was life like when they were growing up?
- What instruments did they write for?
- Can you find and listen to one of their pieces?
- How would you describe the music? Is it fast or slow, loud or quiet, mysterious, playful, dramatic or peaceful?
- How are the composers' musical styles different?

4. Music and Imagination

Listen to a short piece of classical music without telling the children what it is. What does it make them imagine? Where could the music take place? What sort of character might it describe? What do they notice about the tempo, dynamics and instruments?