

Alice of Wonderland Ignores and Commits Animal Abuse

By: Tony

Upon a thorough reading of Lewis Carroll's children's classic *Alice in Wonderland* a reader may discover the underlying theme of animal abuse. Lewis was once quoted criticizing the abuse of animals and putting readers in the place of animals and giving them the terrifying thought of being sprawled on the table, a giant of a man hovering over them with sharp scalpels and knives, waiting to slice them open. This was meant to help readers feel terror, anxiety, sorrow, and pity for the creature, all of which Alice lacks. This is proven with examples that are found in the mouse's tale, the abused piglet, and Alice's assault on an innocent rabbit.

When Alice first met the mouse on page 17, she also frightened it and continued to do so without any sign of remorse throughout their interaction. She tried to interact with the mouse by saying ridiculous things such as "a mouse, of a mouse, to a mouse." When the mouse did not mind her, instead of being a polite human being, she decided to further harass it by asking "Où est ma chatte?" This reveals Alice's inability to identify with the mouse and her inability to recognize and care for animals' feelings. Furthermore, when the mouse expresses his discontent, Alice continues the conversation about her cat Dinah. Likewise, her insensitivity is once again highlighted in the same chapter when she said, "she's such a capital one for catching mice." Additionally, she ignored the feelings of the mouse when it asked her to stop talking about such things and started talking about a dog that kills all the rats. During the entire interaction, the mouse's face was pale with fear, which Alice mistook for glee, again solidifying the argument that Alice cannot recognize and care for animal feelings.

Another victim of animal abuse is the piglet, who was thrown across the room by the duchess. To begin, it did not seem as if the piglet was in a very safe environment as a cook had thrown a pan at the duchess, who was holding the piglet. The piglet also seemed to have a delusional parent as the duchess pretended that it was her baby and recited lullaby about her speaking roughly to the piglet and beating him when he sneezes. Moreover, Alice took it upon herself to save the piglet, thinking it was a human as she knew that it would die within a day or two if she left it there. However, when she realized that it was, in fact, a piglet, all of her feelings for it immediately vanished and she decided to leave the piglet in the dangerous environment it was found in.

Lastly, Alice terrorized two rabbits by bursting into their house without an invitation and also attempting to snatch the rabbits, knowing full well that, considering her size, the rabbits would have been crushed. Even after the rabbits shrieked, she decided to do it again on page 32 and again on page 33. This shows that she is uncaring towards animals and lacks sympathy.

In conclusion, *Alice in Wonderland* does an excellent job of conveying the message that animal abuse should be stopped. Using anthropomorphism in an animal fable, the book helps readers sympathize with the animals and encourages them to experience cruel animal abuse.