

# MAD HATTER'S TEA PARTY

## A CLASSROOM PARTICIPATION PLAY



Adapted by Carolynn Rogers

# Mad Hatter's Tea Party

## A Classroom Participation Play

This is a full participation play written for classroom, which ends in an actual tea party. Yes, eats and treats!

It would be helpful to read the original Lewis Carroll version from Chapter 7 of **Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**. To keep the play down to a manageable length, portions of the original story were shortened or not included.

There are 4 main roles for those students who enjoy the challenge of acting.

- Mad Hatter
- Dormouse
- March Hare
- Alice

Parts can be memorized or scripts can be kept on the table for cues.

Groups are formed with the rest of the students to prepare and perform the chants or songs in the script.

- **Riddlers** – students think up 3 answers to the riddle
- **Rhetoricians** – students think up 3 more converse statements
- **Songsters** – create 2-3 new verses for Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- **Storytellers** – Finish verse 3 of the story chant with words starting with M. (Should try to keep the metre of verse 1 and 2) - could also draw pictures to hold up for each word



Costumes and props can be as simple or detailed as you wish.

Students will enjoy making

- The large Hatter's hat and pocket watch
- Long ears for March Hare
- Furry hat and nose with whiskers for Dormouse (Perhaps hid long furry tail)
- Dress and apron for Alice
- Fancy hats for the rest of the "guests"

If possible, desks should be organized in one long line to accommodate all of the students. Otherwise smaller groups of desks could be arranged around the room.

- Dress up the table with table cloths, cups and paper plates, large tea pot
- Students can bring treats and drinks to be eaten after the play
- Perhaps some traditional foods for Tea could be tried
  - Crumpets
  - Scones
  - Clotted cream
  - Jams and jellies



THE CLASS STANDS AROUND THE EDGE OF THE ROOM TO BEGIN THE "TEA PARTY"

HATTER, DORMOUSE AND MARCH HARE HUDDLED TOGETHER, SHUFFLE TO THE TABLE AND SIT ON THE SIDE NEAR THE HEAD. DORMOUSE, SQUISHED BETWEEN THE OTHER TWO, PUTS HIS HEAD DOWN AND DROWSES.

HATTER: Six o'clock. Time for tea.

MARCH HARE: Thanks to you, it's always time for Tea.

DORMOUSE: ***(Lifting his head slightly)*** Tea and crumpets, yes please.

ALICE: ***(Walking to the table)*** Tea and crumpets? Sounds delightful!

HATTER, DORMOUSE, MARCH HARE: No room! No room!

CLASS CHANT: Lots of room! Lots of room! ***( Rest of the class take seats at the table)*** We'll *all* take tea.

ALICE: Right, I'll sit here. ***(Sits at the head of the table)***

MARCH HARE: Have some lemonade?

CLASS: Lemonade is lovely. We'll have some too.

ALICE: ***(Looking around the table)*** I don't see any.

MARCH HARE: Well, there isn't any!

ALICE AND CLASS: How rude!

MAD HATTER: ***(Standing and looking inside his tea cup)*** I want a clean cup. Let's all move one place.



CLASS: ***(Chanting as everyone moves down the table)***

Move one place and only one place.

Hatter wants a new cup, move one place.

MAD HATTER: Why is a raven like a writing desk?

ALICE: Oh, riddles. I love riddles. Let me think...

WHILE ALICE IS THINKING THE  
RIDDLERS STAND AND SUGGEST SOME  
ANSWERS

RIDDLERS: A raven is like a writing desk  
because \_\_\_\_\_.

A raven is like a writing desk  
because \_\_\_\_\_.

A raven is like a writing desk  
because \_\_\_\_\_. ***(Riddlers sit)***

ALICE: I believe I can guess that.

MARCH HARE: Do you mean you think you can find and answer to it?

ALICE: Exactly.

MARCH HARE: Then say what you mean!

ALICE: I mean what I say - that's the same thing!

MAD HATTER: Not a bit! You think saying "I see what I eat" is the same as "I eat what I see"?

MARCH HARE: Or... "I like what I get" is the same as "I get what I like"?

RHETORICIANS: ***(Standing as if orating)*** Give 3 more converse  
*statements prepared by the students.*



DORMOUSE: **(Lifting his head)** Or... "I breathe when I sleep" and "I sleep when I breathe". **(Dozing again)**

HATTER: I want a clean cup. Let's all move one place.

CLASS: **(Chanting as everyone moves down the table)**

Move one place and only one place.

Hatter wants a new cup, move one place.

ALICE: So, back to the riddle... I give up. What's the answer?

HATTER: I have no idea.

MARCH HARE: Nor I.

DORMOUSE: **(Yawning)** Nor I.

ALICE: **(Annoyed)** Surely you have something better to do with your time than wasting it asking riddles that have no answers!

HATTER: Time! Obviously you don't know Time as well as I do. It's all his fault. We're not wasting time.

MARCH HARE: Well, if you hadn't threatened to kill Time, he wouldn't have made time stand still!

HATTER: **(Pulling out a large lunar pocket watch, shakes it and listens for the ticking)** Yes, and now it's always 6:00 - Tea Time.

ALICE: What a funny watch. It tells the day of the month and doesn't tell what o'clock it is!



CLASS: ***(Staying seated chant)***

No tick, no tock, no o'clock

Time stands still.

No time to waste, no time to kill

Time stands still.

No time to lose, no time to gain

Time stands still.

HATTER: I want a clean cup. Let's all move one place.

CLASS: ***(Chanting as everyone moves down the table)***

Move one place and only one place.

Hatter wants a new cup, move one place.

MARCH HARE: ***(Leaning over Dormouse toward Hatter)*** If only you were better at beating time. We wouldn't be in this predicament.

ALICE: Beating time? You mean like keeping time in music?

HATTER: Just so! Do you know Twinkle Twinkle?

ALICE: Of course. ***(Sings)***

Twinkle twinkle little star,

How I wonder what you are

Up above the world so high

Like a diamond in the sky

Twinkle twinkle little star,

How I wonder what you are.



HATTER: No, no, not so! Like this... **(Sings with poor timing)**

Twinkle twinkle little bat,  
How I wonder where you're at  
Up above the world you fly  
Like a tea-tray in the sky

**(Dormouse rouses and joins last two lines, then goes back to sleep)**

Twinkle twinkle little bat,  
How I wonder where you're at.

**(Hatter stands and bows with a flourish of his hand)**

SONGSTERS: **(Stand and sing)** 2-3 verses of their own

HATTER: I want a clean cup. Let's all move one place.

CLASS: **(Chanting as everyone moves down the table)**

Move one place and only one place.  
Hatter wants a new cup, move one place.

HATTER: Must be time for a story. Girl, tells us a story.

ALICE: That's Alice to you and I don't know a story.

MARCH HARE: **(Nudging Dormouse)** Dormouse tell us a story. You can surely *dream* one up.

DORMOUSE: **(Drowsily sits up, rubs his eyes and starts slowly)**  
Once upon a time there were three sisters named Elsie,  
Lacie and Tillie. They lived at the bottom of a well.

ALICE: What did they live on?

DORMOUSE: Treacle.

ALICE : That would certainly make them ill!

DORMOUSE: Very!





ALICE: Why did they live at the bottom of a well?

DORMOUSE: It was a treacle-well of course and they were learning to draw. They drew treacle.

ALICE: Were they drawing treacle from the well?

DORMOUSE: No, silly. They were *in* the well.

MARCH HARE: Indeed, well in!

ALICE: I'm confused.

DORMOUSE: ***(Almost falling asleep again is poked by March Hare and sleepily speaks)*** They were just learning and drew everything that started with the letter 'M'. ***(Falls asleep again)***

STORY TELLERS: ***(Standing and Chanting)***

Ellie, Lacie and Tillie  
Lived in a treacle-well  
A sticky, gooey, syrupy mess  
But a tasty place to dwell.

Ellie, Lacie and Tillie  
Drew treacle in the well  
Sketched nothing with the letter 'S'  
But 'M' words they could spell.

Ellie, Lacie and Tillie  
Drew a \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_ and a morel  
They also sketched a \_\_\_\_\_ and a mess  
These maidens of the well.

ALICE: Why with an 'M'?

MARCH HARE: Why not? ***(Nudges Dormouse)***



DORMOUSE: Oh, yes, why not? Maybe a muchness - you know how things are said to be "much of a muchness". Did you ever see a drawing of a muchness?

ALICE: Uh, I don't think...

HATTER: Then you shouldn't talk!

ALICE: **(Offended, stomps off in a huff)** Such madness, ridiculous lunacy!

HATTER: **(Stands, raises his cup as if to start a move, but puts down the cup)** Enough tea. Let's Eat!

EVERYONE ENJOYS THE FOOD AND DRINKS PREPARED FOR THE  
TEA PARTY.

