

2



**Bricks**  
**Reading**  
**300**

**Bricks**



E-BOOK



MP3





Bricks  
**Reading**  
300 **2**

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## Math in *Alice in Wonderland*



**Think Aloud** Read the information below and answer the questions.

Do you know why every large pizza has eight slices? It's because 8 can be divided into numbers such as 1, 2, 4, or 8! That means one large-sized pizza can be shared by two, four, or eight people evenly. Likewise, a regular pizza has six slices because the number 6 can be divided by 1, 2, or 3.

1. Which numbers under 30 can be divided by 6?
2. If you were in a world with strange mathematics, how would you feel?

# Math in *Alice in Wonderland*

Have you ever read *Alice in Wonderland*? Many people think the book is interesting because of its story. In the book, Alice goes on a journey to a fantastic world, and she meets many strange creatures there. She even sees a turtle with a cow's head. Everything in Wonderland seems crazy!

However, the book is not just an adventure story. It also **deals with** some very amazing mathematics! A few of you might ask, "Where does that happen?" Well, did you know that the author, Lewis Carroll, taught math at Oxford University in England? He was not just a **brilliant** writer! Through this book, you can understand some of Lewis Carroll's **views** on the world of math.



**deal with** *phrasal v.* to be concerned with  
**brilliant** *adj.* very clever or wise

**view** *n.* an opinion or thought

**be stuck in** *phrasal v.* to be caught or blocked by something

For example, Alice tries to do multiplication but finds that she **is stuck in** a strange number system. What is 4 times 5? You probably know that the answer is 20. But Alice **finds out** that in Wonderland, the answer is 12! Alice keeps getting the wrong answers because of the strange **numeral** system and logic. This shows us that Lewis Carroll tried to create a world where even the math is **bizarre!**



There are many such math-related events throughout the book. Some of them also have **tricky** mathematical quizzes. Now, imagine you are in Alice's Wonderland. Would you want to get out of this world? Or would you stay and try to understand those math problems?

**i** *Alice in Wonderland* has been translated into over 100 languages. The story has also been made into many animation films and live performances. In 2010, another film based on the story was made using a combination of 3D animation and live action.

**find out** *phrasal v.* to discover or realize  
**numeral** *adj.* referring to a number

**bizarre** *adj.* very strange or odd  
**tricky** *adj.* tough to do or understand

## Vocabulary Check Up

**A Meaning** Match each word with the correct meaning.

- |                |   |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|---|
| 1. brilliant   | • | • | a. referring to a number                |
| 2. be stuck in | • | • | b. very strange or odd                  |
| 3. bizarre     | • | • | c. very clever or wise                  |
| 4. numeral     | • | • | d. to be caught or blocked by something |

**B Confusing Words** Choose the most appropriate words.

1. I can't (deal with/come with) chores right now. I have too much homework.
2. The question was so (tricky/treat) that no one could get the answer.
3. I (found out/found in) that the noise was from my neighbor's house.
4. My mother and I have different (victims/views) on marriage.

## Comprehension Check Up

**A Main Idea** Choose the title that best fits the passage.

- a. A Story That Describes the Brilliance of Mathematics
- b. The Strange Adventures of *Alice in Wonderland*
- c. A Writer's Life as a University Math Professor
- d. Mathematics in the Story of *Alice in Wonderland*

**B Check T(True) or F(False).**

- |   |                            |                            |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> has many events related to mathematics. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 2. The author of <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> taught English at Oxford. | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 3. Alice is good at solving math problems in Wonderland.              | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |
| 4. In Wonderland, math-related answers are not what we would expect.  | <input type="checkbox"/> T | <input type="checkbox"/> F |

**C Choose the correct answers.**

1. Wonderland seems crazy to Alice because \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. she can jump into a rabbit hole                      b. math is very easy in her world  
c. there are many unusual creatures                      d. not everyone can enter Wonderland

2. What is 4 times 5 in Wonderland?

- a. It is 20.
- b. It is 12.
- c. It is 5.
- d. We do not know.

3. How does Alice feel about the strange multiplication system?

- a. She likes it because it always gives the right answer.
- b. She feels that all of the math questions are easy.
- c. She is puzzled because the number system is strange.
- d. She thinks the person who made the system is brilliant.

4. **Inference** What can be inferred about Wonderland from the passage?

- a. Not many animals live there.
- b. Nobody can enter there again.
- c. Lewis Carroll wanted to live there.
- d. Alice comes upon many math quizzes there.

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## Skill Build Up | Fact & Opinion

- Check Fact or Opinion for each statement.

Statement	Fact	Opinion
1. Many people think <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> is interesting.		
2. The author Lewis Carroll taught math at Oxford University.		
3. Lewis Carroll created a new math world in his book.		
4. There are many math-related events throughout Carroll's book.		

## Summary Make Up

- Fill in the blanks. Then number the sentences in order.

deals with

adventure

numeral

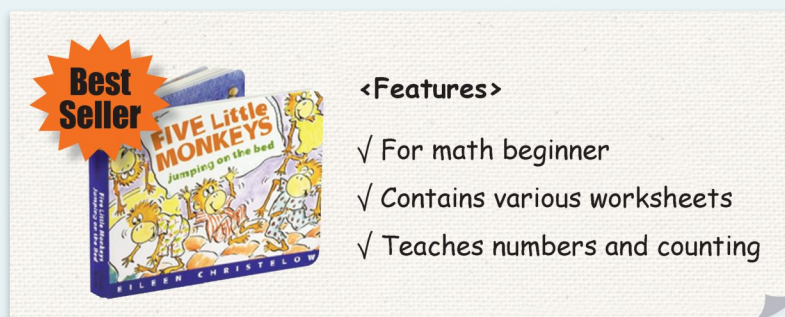
views

tricky

- 1 The book *Alice in Wonderland* is well known for its interesting and adventurous story.
- However, in addition to this \_\_\_\_\_, the book also \_\_\_\_\_ some bizarre mathematical systems.
- In Wonderland, Alice meets many strange situations and animals such as a turtle with a cow's head.
- Because of these bizarre \_\_\_\_\_ systems, Alice can't get any answers correct in Wonderland.
- Through such \_\_\_\_\_ mathematics, Lewis Carroll tried to show his \_\_\_\_\_ on mathematics.

## Practical Reading | Advertisement

- Read the advertisement below and check T(True) or F(False).



**Best Seller**

**FIVE Little MONKEYS**  
Jumping on the bed

HELEN CHRISTALO

<Features>

- ✓ For math beginner
- ✓ Contains various worksheets
- ✓ Teaches numbers and counting

1. This book helps children learn math.

T F

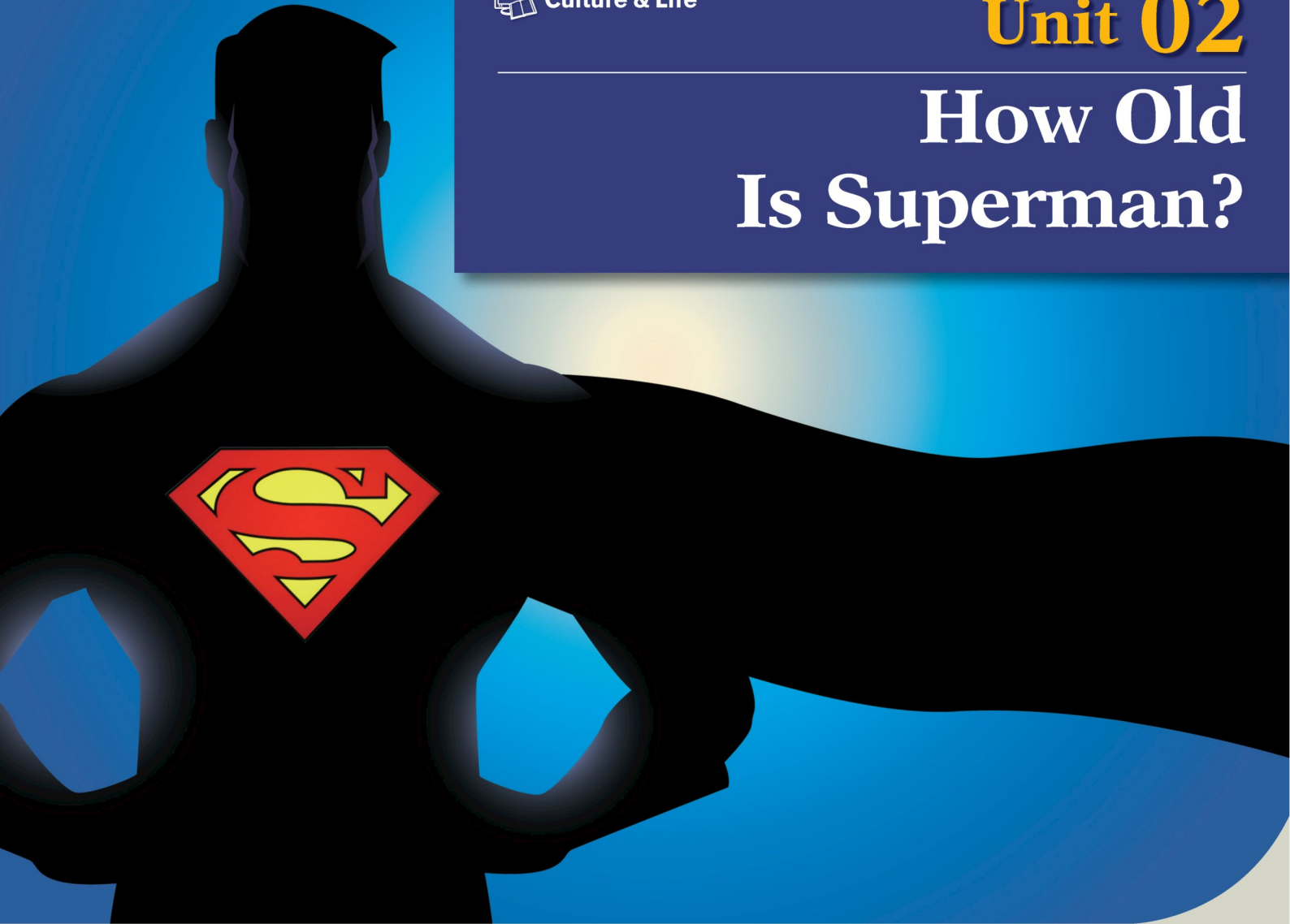
2. Children can learn about numbers.

T F

3. This book provides only one kind of worksheet.

T F

## How Old Is Superman?



**Think Aloud** Read the information below and answer the questions.

There are many superheroes in America. Superman, Batman, Spiderman, and super heroine, Wonder Woman, are just a few. Every superhero has a certain power. For example, Superman flies with an electronic cape, and Batman has special suits and gadgets. Spiderman has web shooters and can climb tall buildings. Wonder Woman has a ring and bracelets to stop bullets.

1. What else do you know about Superman?
2. If you were a writer of comic books, what kind of superhero would you create?