

第 35 回ちびっ子イングリッシュコンテスト英語暗唱部門 課題文

対象 : 小学 3～6 年生

Alice and the Cheshire Cat

“Cheshire Cat,” Alice began, feeling a bit shy because she wasn’t sure if it would like that name, but it only grinned a little wider. “Well, it seems happy so far,” thought Alice, and she went on.

“Would you please tell me which way I should go from here?”

“That depends on where you want to go,” said the Cat.

“I don’t really care where—” said Alice.

“Then it doesn’t matter which way you take,” the Cat replied.

“—as long as I get somewhere,” Alice added.

“Oh, you’re sure to do that,” said the Cat, “if you just keep walking.”

Alice thought that made sense, so she asked another question.

“What kind of people live around here?”

“In that direction,” the Cat waved its paw, “lives a Hatter: and in that direction,” waving the other paw,

“lives a March Hare. You can visit either one if you like: they’re both mad.”

“But I don’t want to be around mad people,” Alice said.

“Oh, you can’t help that. We’re all mad here. I’m mad. You’re mad.”

“How do you know I’m mad?” asked Alice.

“You must be, or you wouldn’t be here.” (193 words)

Adapted from Lewis Carroll’s *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*