

- Introduction
 - Discussion – feel free to interrupt at any time or want to focus on something
 - This class really what you make of it
 - I can talk a lot about any of these topics, but more interested in what y'all think

- Source text (Powerpoint)
 - “What do you think about when you hear the word “children”?”
 - Get them to write keywords on board
 - “What about children’s lit?”
 - Victorian era written in
 - Didactic tales
 - Alice even mentions didactic literature (p.10)
 - Cult of the Child
 - Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland summary
 - Through the Looking Glass summary

- Film
 - 1903 – First Alice film
 - 1951 – Disney’s cartoon Alice
 - 1983 – Svankmajer’s Alice
 - Intro and White Rabbit: 03:50 – 06:30
 - Pantry scene: 46:10 – 48:40
 - 2010 – Tim Burton version
 - 2015 – [Trailer](#)

- Dark Alice
 - Possibly get into digression about dystopian novels for kids
 - Splintered book series
 - Mad Hatter song
 - American McGee’s Alice
 - First part of playthrough: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHxid6jQQN8>
 - Mad Hatter’s Workshop and Tweedle Dee fight: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIDNTI1_gqk
 - Art: <http://megagames.com/sites/default/files/game-content-images/ama.jpg>
 - http://alice.wikia.com/wiki/American_McGee's_Alice
 - Alice: Madness Returns
 - First part of playthrough: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8_IFzjl3So
 - Ooooooh k this is pretty rough, not showing the intro
 - Gameplay: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0BXNt9i2eW8>
 - http://alice.wikia.com/wiki/Alice:_Madness_Returns
 - Possibly more brutal because of cut in between real world and false world

- Drug Culture
 - White Rabbit

- Songwriter and vocalist Grace Slick says about “White Rabbit,” “Our parents read us stories like Peter Pan, Alice in Wonderland and The Wizard of Oz. They all have a place where children get drugs, and are able to fly or see an Emerald City or experience extraordinary animals and people... And our parents are suddenly saying, ‘Why are you taking drugs?’ Well, hello!
 - Curious Alice
 - http://www.slate.com/blogs/the_vault/2013/07/18/curious_alice_the_1971_film_was_a_psychedelic_anti_drug_cautionary_tale.html
 - Dissolving / distorting reality
 - Identity shift
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- Kid’s links
 - Maria – Svankmajer’s Alice – cue up pantry scene (46:10)
 - Natalie (and Amy) – “[Mad Hatter](#)” by Melanie Martinez
 - Aven – 1903, first film [Alice](#)
 - Sierra – Drug culture - ???
 - Sophia – American McGee’s Alice
 - Amy – [Alice: Madness Returns](#) artbook
- Condensed 21L.430 notes
 - Cycle
 - Ideology of child -> how kids treated -> how kids behave
 - Original Sin
 - Inherently born as flawed and sinful – especially babies
 - “children are vipers and infinitely more hateful than vipers”
 - Misshapen and ugly => perfection = adult rational man
 - Swaddling children and standing stools
 - paintings children as young adults
 - Need external force => didactic literature
 - Kids need to be broken down
 - catechism = read and response for conversation to be performed
 - Not cruelty, but fear of damnation and wanting to protect kids
 - Soul depends on it
 - God -> parents -> children hierarchy, rarely flipped
 - Kids enjoyed
 - Reading Pilgrim’s Progress = super dense work
 - “Conversations with kids on Bible”
 - Writing very stiff works at age of 7
 - Original Innocence
 - Romanticism says childhood is distinct stage of life
 - Originally innocent b/c closer to God and nature

- Solitary being
 - Uncorrupted by culture and customs
 - Adulthood is degradation
 - Childhood is greater happiness
 - Wordsworth's ode of wistfulness
 - Anti-didactic
- Alice
 - Dreamy and sleepy
 - Embodiment idea of exploring
 - Rabbit hole
 - Latent critique of authority
 - No parents – just cats and sisters
 - fairly solitary – talks to cats
 - Didactic doesn't work – she knows all these facts but doesn't know how to apply
 - Nothing ever comes from “Off with her head”
 - Parody the didactic
 - But does Alice do the parodying?
 - Agency reduced -> supernatural property of Wonderland is forcing her to
 - Actually very upset
 - Want to sound smart and follow teachings but just all come out wrong
 - Wants to conform
 - Change
 - Size in 1st
 - Gain control of size -> certain size for each situation
 - Figuring out power relations?
 - Pawn -> Queen in 2nd book
 - 1st book vs. 2nd book
 - More established social conduct in 2nd one?
 - Less meandering in 2nd one than first one
 - Chess the directional game
 - Imposing status and hierarchy on Wonderland
 - Hung up on systems and status?
 - Fixated on being a queen
 - Journey vs. end goal
 - Wonderland is circle and loops = end up at same garden as start
 - Looking Glass = desire to constantly push forward
 - This desire ignored in 1st book (think Cheshire Cat – I want to go somewhere)
 - More in control
 - Walks to mirror vs. falls down rabbit hole
 - Smart

- Reads Jabberwocky once and she memorizes
 - “How are texts treated?”
 - Inhabitants of Wonderland = adults trying to do adult things?
 - No positive depiction of Adults
 - Exaggeration of didacticism with Duchess and Red Queen
 - Does Carroll have even anything to convey?
 - Think Lear’s Owl and the Pussycat
 - Reader Response theory in the famous Humpty Dumpty “word choose” quote
 - Cheshire Cat is only friend
- Neco z Alenky
 - Living vs. Dead and man’s meddling
 - Slab of meat moving
 - Taxidermy
 - Animate vs. inanimate – and yet more expression than girl
 - Abject vs. Abjection
 - Push away to assert boundary of “gross” vs. “pure”
 - Very much blurring boundary -> puts us at unease
 - Weird collections -> Victorians and SCIENCE and fossils
 - Curiosity closet
 - Is this adding dark twist or just throw back curtain on violence?
 - How do you play with your dolls?
 - Female violence – “I was not a nice girl”
 - Who is Alice?
 - Speaking Alice is the only voice in the whole thing – she narrates everyone
 - Make believe game / play acting
 - Remove Cheshire Cat and Duchess – only helpful characters
- <http://musicalalice.tumblr.com/>
 - Taking drugs in fairy tales
 - Jazz improv on Alice
 - Marilyn Manson
- <http://web.mit.edu/comm-forum/forums/comingofage.html>
- Cult of the Child
 - Romantic love as applied to children
 - Intimacy / intensity as to mother / father
 - Epitome of beauty -> fetishization of child
 - More culture than nature aspect – precocious
 - Child actor => empowering children and act
 - “Babyolatry” = children in center rather than adults in center
 - Child as autocrat

- “Universal favorite”
 - Uncertainty of faith (Darwin) -> child as replacement God?
- Conflicting attitudes
 - Pure and clueless vs. precociousness
 - Unfortunately leads to sexual precocity
 - Very self-aware about these tendencies
- Extra
 - Lewis Carroll: Pedophile?
 - <http://still-she-haunts-me-phantomwise.tumblr.com/post/75884979685/sundersart-digital-print-on-white-t-shirt>
 - [NYT Math](#)
 - [NYT Travelogue](#)
 - [Pogo](#)
 - Edward Gorey