

CAT 1

(Alice practices with the Audience. In this sequence Alice looks around to see what's behind her. Each time she looks one way, Cat appears from the opposite side. Repeat as many times as you think you can get away with. Alice ad libs with Audience while this is going on. Eventually Alice ends up face to face with Cat.)

Alice: Oh. You scared me. I thought you might be a tiger.

Cat: A tiger, me?
How dare you mock?
Well you dear girl
Look like a clock.

Alice: A clock? Me? Why would you think I was a clock?

Cat: 'Tis on the facts,
My views I base.
You have two hands,
And a small round face.

Alice: That doesn't mean that I'm a clock. I'm a girl. **(Aside and slightly annoyed)** My face isn't round.
Is it?

Cat: Well I'm amazed,
You're more refined,
You're a clock
Of the speaking kind.

Alice: I'm not a clock. I told you, I'm a girl. My name's Alice. Anyway, you resemble more a tiger than I do a clock. With your long tail and your yellow eyes and your stripy stripes. A small tiger, mind you. **(Pause.)** I really must be off. If I'm not back by the time Ms Hackett comes for me, she'll get very cross. **(Turning to exit then returning to talk to Cat)** Oh by the way, I'm looking for a white rabbit in a waistcoat. Have you any idea where I might find him?

Cat: If you need help,
In any matter,
Follow this path,
And find the Hatter.

Alice: The Hatter? Will he know where the rabbit is?

Cat: The Hatter dear,
May solve your puzzle.
But be prepared,
Some tea to guzzle.

(Exit Cat in a puff of smoke. Alternatively, Cat spins Alice to disorient her as she exits.)

Alice: **(Dazed at first)** Where did...? Never mind. "Follow the path and find the Hatter". Ok. And a cup of tea might be nice too. I am a little thirsty.

(Exit Alice. After a brief moment enter Dame followed by Orphan Girls. Girls whisper, calling for Alice in a hushed tone.)

Sherry: What is this place?

Brandy: We're at the bottom of the rabbit hole.

Dame: Well this is the biggest hole I was ever in. Unless you count *[name of place]*. **(Pause.)** Right.
If we're to have any chance of finding Alice we'll have to split up.

(Dame divides the group up and they all exit in different directions except Dame. Enter Cat.)

Cat: Well bless my smile,
But I must say,
This is a busy,
Place today.