Alice in Wonderland

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OUTLINE

- Author & Social Background
- The use of animals
  - Personification
  - Animal abuse
- Related works
- Compare and contrast the portrayals of animals in film adaptations vs. canon -
  - Disney’s animated version (1951)
  - Tim Burton (2010)
- Conclusion & Quiz
AUTHOR & SOCIAL BACKGROUND

Cindy Chai
Lewis Carroll (1832 CE – 1898 CE)

- 1832 CE. Born Charles Lutwidge Dodgson on 27 January, in Daresbury, Cheshire, England
- 1846 CE. Enrolled at Rugby School, where he suffered from bullying
- 1851 CE. Entered Christ Church College, Oxford University, where he read mathematics and classics
- 1854 CE. Received his B.A. degree and fellowship from the college; appointed lecturer in mathematics
- 1856 CE. Met the Liddell family
- 1861 CE. Took the deacon orders
- 1862 CE. Started composing the Alice stories
- 1865 CE. Published Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland
- 1871 CE. Published Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There
- 1898 CE. Died of influenza on 14 January in Guildford, Surrey, England

1859 CE. Charles Darwin published On the Origin of Species
DARWINISM

“Theory of the evolutionary mechanism propounded by Charles Darwin as an explanation of organic change. It denotes Darwin’s specific view that evolution is driven mainly by natural selection” (Britannica online)

Oppose to the traditional natural theology that the world and every creature in it are of God’s wondrous design

Three principles
1. Variation
2. Heredity
3. Struggle for existence
SOCIAL DARWINISM

“The theory that individuals, groups, and peoples are subject to the same Darwinian laws of natural selection as plants and animals. Now largely discredited, social Darwinism was advocated by Herbert Spencer and others in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and was used to justify political conservatism, imperialism, and racism and to discourage intervention and reform” (Oxford Dictionaries online)

Survival of the fittest

• “According to the theory, the weak were diminished and their cultures delimited, while the strong grew in power and in cultural influence over the weak” (Britannica online)
The Use of Animals

Claire Lin
The use (symbol) of animal: Alice

- Representation of real human figures

  e.g. Mouse ➔ The governess of the Liddell family, Mary Prickett

  e.g. Dodo ➔ Lewis Caroll (Charles Dodgson ➔ Dodo-dodgson)
e.g. “It was high time to go, for the pool was getting quite crowded with the birds and animals that had fallen into it: there a Duck and a Dodo, a Lory, and an Eaglet, and several other curious creatures. Alice led the way, and the whole party swam to the shore” (p. 11).

→ A boat trip on 17th June, 1862
  Duck: Duckworth Priest
  Dodo: Caroll himself
  Lory: Lorina, the elder sister
  Eaglet: Edith, the younger sister
A metaphorical world: wonderland

Alice’s dream

“...and tried to beat them off, and found herself lying on the bank, with her head in the lap of her sister, who was gently brushing away some dead leaves that fluttered down from the trees upon her face” (64).
The use (symbol) of animal: Alice

- What Alice dreams
  - a way of searching for herself

  E.g. “‘What do you mean by that?’ said the Caterpillar sternly. ‘Explain yourself!’
  ‘I can’t explain Myself, I’m afraid, sir’ said Alice, ‘because I’m not myself, you see’” (page 21).

- Different animals
  - the personification of different aspects and attitude of Alice
**TWO INTERIOR SIDES OF ALICE**

- An unavoidable process of becoming an adult
  
  e.g. “Lastly, she pictured to herself how this same little sister of hers would, in the *after-time*, be herself a *grown woman*” (66).

- e.g. “Alice opened the door and... to a small passage...she knelt down, and looking the passage into the loveliest garden” (5).

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**The Cathedral Garden ➔**
**Two Interior Sides of Alice: Rabbit vs. Cheshire Cat**

- **Rabbit**
  - Self-conscious
  - Obedient (to authorities)

- **Cheshire Cat**
  - Alice’s logic
  - Disobedient
**THE WHITE RABBIT**

e.g. “Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!” (4).

➔ Alice wants to grow up.


e.g. “Oh! The Duchess, the Duchess! Oh! *Won’t she be savage if I’ve kept her waiting!*” (8).

➔ should be punctual, responsible, and of self-discipline

“I wish I hadn’t cried so much!” (10).
“I shall be punished for it now!” (10).
e.g. “Oh, hush!” the Rabbit whispered in a frightened tone. ‘The Queen will hear you! You see, she came rather late, and the Queen said—”” (41).

→ obedient, cautious

“Not at all,’ said Alice: ‘she’s so extremely—’ Just then she noticed that the Queen was close behind her, listening: so she went on, ‘—likely to win, that it’s hardly worth while finishing the game.’” (43).
**The Cheshire Cat**

e.g. “I don’t like the look of it at all,’ said the King: ‘however, it may kiss my hand if it likes.’

‘I’d rather not,’ the Cat remarked.

‘Don’t be impertinent,’ said the King,” (43).

→ rebel, disobedient to the authorities

“A cat may look like a king,’ said Alice” (43)

→ an English proverb which means, “An inferior isn't completely restricted in what they may do in the presence of a superior.”
THE CHESHIRE CAT

“Who cares for you?” said Alice, (she had grown to her full size by this time.) ‘You’re nothing but a pack of cards!’” (64).
THE USE (SYMBOL) OF ANIMAL: THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

e.g. “Bill’s to go down---Here, Bill! The master says you’re to go down the chimney!”

→ The age of Industrialization: Chimney and flues’ popping up
→ life-risking job; stopped in 1875
e.g. “It was high time to go, for the pool was getting quite crowded with the birds and animals that had fallen into it: there a Duck and a Dodo, a Lory, and an Eaglet, and several other curious creatures. Alice led the way, and the whole party swam to the shore” (p. 11).

→ The change of agriculture quickened with the industrial revolution in Great Britain in the 18th century.

→ “By 1750, the English agriculture was the best in the world.”
e.g. The caterpillar and his hookah
   “...of a large caterpillar, that was sitting on the top
with its arms folded, quietly **smoking a long hookah,**” (20).

→ “Originated from India and spread to England during
  British occupation”
→ drugs were legal.
→ “mind expanding”

http://www.carleton.edu/departments/ENGL/Alice/Foothookah.html
Animal Abuse & Animal Equality

Nancy Liu
**ANIMAL ABUSE—THE MOUSE’S TALE**

- She began: “O, Mouse, do you know the way out of this pool? I am very tired of swimming about here, O Mouse!”

→ Having the knowledge of the differences between animals and humans
→ Treating animals as humans
→ Assuming that mouse has the ability of speaking the language as she speaking
ANIMAL ABUSE—THE MOUSE’S TALE

“I dare say it’s a French mouse, come over with William the Conqueror.” She began again: “Ou est ma chatte?” which means “Where is my cat?”

→ Without considering that maybe the mouse cannot understand the language

→ Cannot identify the mouse who is afraid of cat
ANIMAL ABUSE—THE MOUSE’S TALE

“I quite forgot you were a mouse”

The mouse: innocent
→ Expresses his fear and ask her to stop talking
Alice: insensitive
→ Continues to talk about her cat
→ Not able to recognize and care about the mouse’s feeling
ANIMAL ABUSE—PIG AND PEPPER

“The cook took the cauldron of soup off the fire, and at once set to work throwing everything within her reach at the Duchess and the baby.”

“I speak severely to my boy, /I beat him when he sneezes; /For he can thoroughly enjoy / The pepper when he pleases”

Pepper Smell
→ Cause the baby sneeze

The Duchess
→ Less than sympathetic towards her baby, who seems to be the cause of all the trouble
**Animal Abuse—Pig and Pepper**

- “If you’re going to turn into a pig, my dear, I’ll have nothing more to do with you.”

After baby turning into a pig:
- Any feelings Alice once had towards the baby have vanished
- Does not want to protect the pig
- Different attitude towards the baby and the pig
- Alice’s sympathy—for the humans but not the animals
ANIMAL ABUSE—THE CROQUET

Queer Croquet

“It was all ridges and furrows: the balls were live hedgehogs, the mallets live flamingoees, and the soldiers had to double themselves up and to stand on their hands and feet, to make the arches”

Animal Abuse exploiting as a physical subject
- Using flamingoees as the mallets
- Using hedgehogs as the balls
  → This maltreatment of animals—only for entertainment
  → Both animals and humans have soul
  → No reason to be treated as a physical subject—a ball or a mallet
Animal Abuse(Eaten)—”Turtle Soup”

- “Soup of the evening, beautiful Soup!”
- “Beau—ootiful Soo—oop!”
- “Soo—oop of the e—e—evening,/Beautiful, beautiful Soup!”

Natural Selection, Darwin’s Evolutionary Theory

For predators
→ Beautiful and delicious soup

For preys
→ Be eaten—Time to die
ANIMAL ABUSE (EATEN) — "TIS THE VOICE OF THE SLUGGARD"

“Tis the voice of the Lobster: I heard him declare ‘You have baked me too brown, I must sugar my hair’”

Natural Selection, Darwin’s Evolutionary Theory

For predators
→ Baked Lobster

For preys
→ Be eaten
**Predator and Prey**

Dinah, Alice’s cat

- “She’s such a capital one for catching mice!”
- “She’ll eat a little bird as soon as look at it.” (Carroll 35)

**Natural Selection, Darwin’s Evolutionary Theory**

→ Dinah, an animal—evoking fear in her fellow animals because she uses them as food

In the food chain: Eating for Surviving

→ Predator: Cat—Dinah
→ Prey: Mouse and Bird
Lewis Carroll’s View on — Natural Selection

“Mouse was trembling down to the end of his tail.”
“Some of the birds hurried off at once” and ask for leave by different reasons

Using Vivid Animal Emotion
→ To make the reader forget the creature consumption of another creature

Focusing on
→ Animals who have no less of right to live as humans
→ The animal consumption—means of survival
Animal Equality—
The Command of the Rabbit

The rabbit said “Run home this moment, and fetch me a pair of gloves and a fan! Quick now!” The bewildered Alice respond, “How queer it seems to be going messages for a rabbit!” (Carroll 37-38)

Human—Alice as a representation of human beings

→ Believing that human are more supreme than animals

With right to command

→ Human commanding animals but not animals commanding human

The identity

→ Thinking that how surprised he’ll be when he finds out who I am
ANIMAL EQUALITY—TEA PARTY

- Tea Party Member—Different Creatures
  - Mad Hatter, a human
  - March Hare, an animal
  - Dormouse, an animal

Humans and Animals
→ Not be separated
→ Able to drink tea together without hierarchal lines
Lewis Carroll’s View on—Animal Right

- Using Personification
- Mixing animals with human—”Tea Party”
- Setting his character—Alice as a traditional person at that time
  → Believing human as a Supreme Being

To Show
→ The idea of the equality of animal and human
→ The Equality of all living creatures

Animals
→ Be treated as inferior
→ No less able than human.
→ Fully capable of emotion
→ Can feel and think just as human can
RELATED WORKS

Evanna, Kaylyn, Catherine
RELATED WORKS—WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

“A RICH SURPRISE, A DELIGHTFUL GEM.”
—The Denver Post
After the death of his parents, Jacob, a veterinary student, abandons his studies and joins Benzini Brothers Circus.
He works as a vet there and meets August, the unstable boss and his wife, Marlena. Jacob tries to protect the animals abused by August, and he also finds himself in love with Marlena…
Introspection: animal for entertainment?
ANIMAL CRUELTY IN FILM MAKING

Kaylyn Liang
ANIMAL CRUELTY IN FILM MAKING
WHITE WILDERNESS

✓ an Academy Award-winning nature documentary produced by Walt Disney Productions in 1958

✓ noted for its splendid visuals as well as its propagation of the misconception of lemming suicide

✓ The film was directed by James Algar and narrated by Winston Hibler.

✓ It was filmed on location in Canada over the course of three years

✓ It won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.
WHAT IS LEMMING?
The lemming is a small rodent found in North America, similar to a mouse. 旅鼠
CONTROVERSY

White Wilderness contains a scene that supposedly depicts a mass “lemming migration,” and ends with the lemmings leaping to their deaths into the Arctic Ocean.

There have been some reports that the Disney film describes this as an actual suicidal action by the lemmings, but the narrator in the film states that the lemmings are likely not attempting suicide, but rather are migrating and upon encountering water, attempt to cross it.

If the water they attempt to cross is too wide, they suffer exhaustion and drown.
Do Lemming really commit suicide?
THE ANSWER IS NOT
In the film, the lemmings supposedly committing mass suicide by leaping into the ocean were actually thrown off a cliff by the Disney filmmakers.

What a big tragedy!
How do they make it seem so real?
The epic “lemming migration” was staged using careful editing, tight camera angles and a few dozen lemmings running on snow which is covered by a lazy-Susan style turntable.
Lemming Drop
Free Willy

Catherine Hung
FREE WILLY
A young killer whale (Willy) was captured by fishermen, and sold to an owner of an amusement park. However, it was hard to train Willy because he couldn’t adapt to the new environment until a boy named Jesse became Willy’s friend. Jesse started to train Willy for performance, but Willy screwed up a performance and the owner of the amusement park wanted to kill Willy so that he could get the insurance. In the end, Jesse successfully saved Willy from being killed.
FREE WILLY 2-THE ADVENTURE HOME

- Episode 2

- A crashed oil tanker polluted the sea, endangered the whales, including Willy’s bothers and sisters, several sea creatures and human. Jesse saved Willy’s brothers and sisters successfully, but he was stuck in a fire as well. In the end, Jesse rode on Willy’s back and escaped from the fire.
**Free Willy 3 - The Rescue**

- Episode 3

  Jesse took a job on an orca-researching ship, and he found that there was a man named John who made a lot of money through illegal captures of whales. In the end, Jesse, Willy and John’s son Max stopped John from capturing whales illegally and saved many whales’ lives.
FREE WILLY 4-ESCAPE FROM PIRATES COVE

- Episode 4

- A little girl named Kirra discovered a baby killer whale stranded in the lagoon near her grandfather's seaside amusement park. She led the baby killer whale back to his pod and stopped the evil people who wanted to make a lot of money by making it perform in the amusement park.
Isshues Related to Animal Abuse

- Illegal capture
- Animal killing
- Pollution of Animals’ living environments
- Animal eating
- Using animals as a tool of making money
Film Adaptations

Tony Wong
Diseny’s Animation Version (1951)

- Amusing characters and exaggerated Actions
- Strong and cartoonized Characteristics

[YouTube Logo]

[YouTube Logo]
TIM BURTON’S VERSION (2010)

- Many Years after Alice’s First Visit to the Wonderland
- Animal Abusing Red Queen
- Animal Caring Alice (White Queen)
Conclusion & Quiz
WHAT ARE THE TWO ANIMALS THAT REPRESENT THE TWO INTERIOR SIDES OF ALICE?

(A) Rabbit: serious; Cheshire Cat: curiosity
(B) Caterpillar: lazy; Rabbit: diligent
(C) Rabbit: obedient; Cheshire Cat: disobedient
(D) Cheshire Cat: invisible; Rabbit: visible

Ans. (C)
a) Alice in Wonderland presents the Victorian social hierarchy.
b) The animals present the real human figures.
c) “A cat may look like a king” means “an superior isn’t completely restricted in what they may do in the presence of an inferior.”
d) What Alice dreams is a way of searching for herself.

Choose the correct one:
(A) acd  (B) abc  (C) abd  (D) abcd

Ans. (C)
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