



## ***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll illustrated by Helen Oxenbury**

**Publisher: Walker Books**

**RRP \$18.99**

This 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition is a charming introduction for young readers to Lewis Carroll's classic story. It is well-matched by the vibrant illustrations of Helen Oxenbury.

It's astonishing that *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* remains an entertaining story to read today, even though it's 150 years since it first delighted children. When Alice follows the White Rabbit and falls down a hole she enters a magical, mysterious world filled with odd creatures and cantankerous characters.

Alice is not a timid child. She's a resourceful girl with an adventurous nature and a logical mind. She's not intimidated by a bad-tempered Duchess who spansks her porcine baby, nor the fierce Queen of Hearts who constantly orders the execution of anyone who annoys her.

Alice is curious to know why things are so mixed up in Wonderland, and asks many questions of the characters she meets. Her enquiries often result in irritated replies, because those involved don't know the answers themselves. This leads to humorous, perplexing situations and witty dialogue.

Oxenbury's illustrations show Alice as a modern young girl wearing a blue shift dress and sneakers. Her expressive face reflects the emotions of the odd situations she lands in that cause her surprise, consternation, and amusement. Other well-known characters and scenes have been refreshed, yet retain their recognisable elements, such as the anxious White Rabbit, the smiling Cheshire Cat, the irascible Queen's croquet game, and the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

Helen Oxenbury won the 1999 Kate Greenaway Medal for her illustrations when this edition was first published. It truly is a classic story that continues to delight.

**An interview with the Illustrator:**

<http://tinyurl.com/m97jut2>

**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett**

