SAMPLE OF SCRIPT FROM ALICE THROUGH THE WONDERGLASS

*Lights come up. Curtains are drawn. In front of the curtains are bits of junk and centre is a mirror. A group of kids enter from the aisle with torches.*

James It’s supposed to be haunted.

Diana James, stop it.

James You’re such a wimp Diana.

Diana I’m not. I just don’t like it when you make up scary stories.

James It’s true. They say the old man died in this very house. They say his ghost walks the halls casting evil spells and that every now and then he chooses a new victim, takes them in to his laboratory and uses his dark magic to rip off their skin!

*He holds his torch up too his face and Cat scares Diana.*

Diana That’s not funny!

Cat You’re right. It’s hilarious.

Diana You literally gave me a heart attack.

Cat look out. It’s the ghost!

*Diana screams, turns round and shoves her laughing friends.*

Alice Diana, don’t let them tease you. There’s no such thing as ghosts and just so you know they didn’t literally give you a heart attack or you’d be dead. Literally means it really happened.

James Thanks miss Alice for the English lesson and for taking the fun out of this as usual.

Alice Only you would think it was fun to go poking around some abandoned house at night.

Cat If we came in the day it wouldn’t be as scary, would it?

Alice It isn’t scary now.

Cat But there could be some sort of monster lurking round the corner, or maybe there’s a curse on this house. The old guy who lived here was really weird. I wouldn’t be surprised if he was some kind of witch.

Diana He does have a lot of odd stuff.

Alice I think the word is junk, and no Cat, he can’t be a witch.

Diana Because men are wizards. It says so in Harry Potter.

Alice No. because stuff like that doesn’t exist.

James You really don’t use your imagination at all do you?

Alice What would be the point?

James To have fun. Maybe see things in a different way, but I forget you only look at stuff that factual and serious.

Cat Apart from poetry.

James I’d forgotten about that.

Alice There’s nothing wrong with poetry.

Cat It’s boring.

Alice Not as boring as this.

James If you didn’t want to come then why did you?

Alice Because you said you had an idea of something fun we could do and I was curious. I didn’t know it was going to be breaking in to a property.

James We didn’t break in. The back door was unlocked. The only thing that’s boring about tonight is you.

Diana James, you can’t say things like that.

James I’m just telling the truth. I’ve had enough of Alice always taking the fun out of everything.

Alice I don’t.

James Yes you do. You never just let your hair down and go crazy and when we do you look at us like we’re pathetic. You have no idea how to use your imagination at all and you have to correct everything so nothing is ever slightly out of place. I bet you’d have a panic attack if the pictures on your walls were slightly crooked. You never used to be this serious and dull when we were in primary school.

Alice what do you want me to do? Something crazy? Like what?

James I don’t know. Break the rules for once. Stop listening to the advice you give yourself and do the opposite.

Alice Alright, fine. I should go home, but you want me to do something crazy to prove I’m not boring, I will. I’ll stay here, alone, all night.

Diana Alice, don’t be ridiculous.

Alice I’m not. I’m being crazy, to prove to James that I can be.

James So you’ll stay in the house alone all night? Alright, you’re on.

Diana But it’s really creepy in here.

Alice Diana, I told you I don’t believe in ghosts, monsters or magic. Nothing is going to happen to me.

Cat Unless you get arrested for squatting.

Alice Then I guess I’d be breaking the rules.

Cat Look, James is an idiot sometimes, you don’t really have to do this.

Alice I said I‘d do it so I will. It’s only a house.

James In which case hand over your phone.

Cat James, she ought to have it in case of emergencies. What if she hurts herself or something?

Diana And you’d better text your mum and say you’re staying with one of us or she’ll freak out.

James Now you two are getting just as serious as she is.

Alice It’s ok. I’ll text mum and then you can take my phone and I’ll see you in the morning.

*She sends a text.*

James You’re really going to do this?

Alice yes. Now take my phone.

James I bet you won’t last an hour.

Alice Watch me.

James Ok. I’ll leave you a torch and my water bottle. Have a nice night.

*James starts to exit.*

Diana Be careful, Alice.

Alice I’ll be fine. Go.

*Diana and Cat exit. Alice looks around. She puts the water bottle in her bag. She walks on the stage and picks her way past rubbish, picks up a book she finds on the floor and sits down on a cushion. She shines the torch on to the book.*

Alice ‘Alice in Wonderland.’ That’s ironic. I’m stuck here all alone and the book I find is ‘Alice in Wonderland’. Well, I guess I’m Alice, but this doesn’t look like Wonderland to me. It’s a load of silly fantasy anyway. Nonsense and rubbish, like everything in this room. I’ve heard bits of the story, but never read it before….

*Reads a bit of book.*

And she spends half her time talking to herself…. Like I’m doing right now… a good thing there’s no-one else here or that would be awkward.

*There’s a rustle in the junk in the corner. Alice jumps and points the torch at it.*

Is there someone there? James, if this is your idea of trying to scare me it’s not going to work.

*It rustles again. Alice stands up.*

Hello?

The white rabbit jumps out.

White R No time… no time left. Late, late, late!

*The White rabbit runs past Alice, drops some gloves and leaps through the mirror.*

Alice If I don’t have a good imagination, then what was that?

*The white rabbit comes back through. Alice has picked up the gloves. White rabbit takes them from Alice and jumps back through the mirror.*

White R So late!

*Alice walks over to the mirror and looks it up and down.*

Alice Where did the rabbit go? It can’t have gone through the mirror. That’s impossible.

*She leans in closer and is pulled in through the mirror. The junk furniture is moved by the chorus to look like Alice is falling past it. At the end she hits the floor with a thump.*

Alice What on earth was that?

Conduct You’re not on earth. You’re in square one.

Alice Square one?

Conduct On the board. Don’t you play chess?

Alice Not very often. I’ve got it on my computer.

Conduct On the what-er?

Alice Computer.

Conduct Commuter. Well, yes this is the place to pick up the train so I’d get up off the floor if I was you!

Alice Not commuter, computer… train? There aren’t any tracks.

Conduct I should know. I’m the Train Conductor. I’d know if there wasn’t a train. Ticket please.

Alice but I don’t have a ticket.

Conduct No ticket? Then you need to get off the train.

Alice I’m not on a train.

Conduct All aboard! Next stop square 2!

*Passengers run on and form a train.*

Conduct Ticket please.

Alice But I don’t have a ticket and I don’t want to go anywhere, except back to where I was.

Conduct You can’t go backwards. That’s the past. Once it’s happened you can only go forwards. You’ll never become a Queen if you don’t reach square 8.

Alice I never said I wanted to be a Queen.

Red Q And why not? I’m a Queen. The Red Queen. You should come to square 8 and have a banquet with me, then we can be Queens together and I will not have to be alone with the White Queen. She can be such terribly hard work.

Alice I’m sorry, but I…

Red Q Don’t speak unless you’re spoken to. That is the way everything is.

Alice But if nobody spoke until they were spoken to, then no one would speak.

Red Q Ridiculous!

Conduct Train departing!

*The Conductor blows a whistle.*

Alice But I don’t want to be on a train. I still don’t have a ticket.

Red Q You can have mine. I don’t need a ticket. I’m a Queen.

Alice In a minute I’m going to wake up and realise this is the weirdest dream I’ve ever had.

Red Q Where are you from? And where are you going?

Alice I don’t know where I’m going.

Red Q That’s no good. You must know where you’re going. How did you get to the train?

Alice I wonder if I tripped and hit my head. I was in this old house and I thought I saw a white rabbit…

Red Q A white rabbit?

Alice Yes. It was carrying gloves and it jumped through a mirror. I sound crazy.

Red Q Completely! How absurd. The white rabbit works for the Queen of Hearts. She doesn’t play chess with us, so why would the white rabbit be here? You really should learn to tell the truth, think before you speak and write it down afterwards.

Alice I am telling the truth.

Conduct Square 2! Get ready to swim!

Alice Swim?

*The train halts dramatically and everyone dives away as a cloth representing water comes in. Alice is forced to swim. A boat appears with the knitting Sheep in it.*

Alice Help! Can anyone hear me!

Sheep What would you like to buy?

Alice Buy?

Sheep From my shop?

Alice What shop?

Sheep In square 4 naturally.

Alice I don’t know. I haven’t got there yet. Can I get in to your boat, please.

Sheep Up ewe get.

*Alice climbs in to the boat and catches her breath.*

Alice thanks. I thought I was going to drown. Where did that water come from?

Sheep it’s always been there. It was you who came from somewhere.

Alice You’re a sheep.

Sheep And you’re a girl. That seems obvious to me. Isn’t it to ewe?

Alice But you’re talking to me. Sheep don’t talk.

Sheep We most certainly do or I wouldn’t be speaking to you, would I? Although it seems to me that I shouldn’t be talking to anyone as rude as you.

Alice I didn’t mean to be rude.

Sheep Feather!

Alice What?

Sheep Feather! Feather! You’ll be catching a crab.

*Sheep hands Alice some knitting needles.*

Sheep Can you row?

Alice Not with knitting needles…

Sheep Feather!

Alice Why do you keep saying feather?

Sheep You’re a bird.

Alice You said a minute ago I was a girl.

Sheep No you’re a silly goose.

Alice I’m not a goose.

Sheep What do you want to buy?

Alice I don’t want to buy anything.

Sheep Then little goose you can go back for a swim.

*Alice is pushed back in to the water and the Sheep sails away. Creatures sail past her, including the Dodo.*

Alice Come back! Please!

Dodo Lovely day for a swim!

Alice Can you help me, please?

Dodo Certainly my dear, just follow me. Not far to dry land now.