



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

WORK TO BE COMPLETED ON SNOW DAYS

YEAR 8PP

Reading Task

Read the text below and answer Questions A, B and C, then 1–4.

Extract from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*: Lewis Carroll

In the novel Alice falls asleep while on the riverbank with her sister. She dreams she follows a White Rabbit through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world. In this extract Alice has found three living playing cards, Five, Seven and Two, painting white roses with red paint because the Queen of Hearts hates white roses.

At this moment Five, who had been anxiously looking across the garden, called out 'The Queen! The Queen!' and the three gardeners instantly threw themselves flat upon their faces. There was a sound of many footsteps, and Alice looked round, eager to see the Queen. First came ten soldiers carrying clubs; these were all shaped like the three gardeners, oblong and flat, with their hands and feet at the corners: next the ten courtiers; these were ornamented all over with diamonds, and walked two and two, as the soldiers did. After these came the royal children; there were ten of them, and the little dears came jumping merrily along hand in hand, in couples: they were all ornamented with hearts. Next came the guests, mostly Kings and Queens, and among them Alice recognised the White Rabbit: it was talking in a hurried nervous manner, smiling at everything that was said, and went by without noticing her. Then followed the Knave of Hearts, carrying the King's crown on a crimson velvet cushion; and, last of all this grand procession¹, came THE KING AND QUEEN OF HEARTS. Alice was rather doubtful whether she ought not to lie down on her face like the three gardeners, but she could not remember ever having heard of such a rule at processions; 'and besides, what would be the use of a procession,' thought she, 'if people had all to lie down upon their faces, so that they couldn't see it?' So she stood still where she was, and waited. When the procession came opposite to Alice, they all stopped and looked at her, and the Queen said severely 'Who is this?' She said it to the Knave of Hearts, who only bowed and smiled in reply. 'Idiot!' said the Queen, tossing her head impatiently; and, turning to Alice, she went on, 'What's your name, child?' 'My name is Alice, so please your Majesty,' said Alice very politely; but she added, to herself, 'Why, they're only a pack of cards, after all. I needn't be afraid of them!'

Answer ALL questions. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

A Give your own meaning for these words and phrases:

oblong _____

bowed _____

politely _____

merrily _____

3 In this extract the writer has used language and structure to interest and engage the reader. The table below identifies three language or structural features from the extract.

For each one you should:

- identify an example from the extract
- explain how they interest and engage the reader. (6)

Type of language or structure	Example	Explanation of the effect of the language or structure
adverb		
alliteration		
rhetorical question		
Your own choice Choose one example of a different type of language or structural feature from the extract and fill in this last row of the table.		

(Total for Question 3 = 9 marks)

