Session 3: Drama script

Sample drama script

“Alice in Wonderland, Chapter VII: “A Mad Tea-Party”

• Read this script together in your group.
• Follow the stage directions closely.
• How about some actions and gestures?
• Let’s have some real-life acting!

Scene: A table set out under a tree in front of a house. The March Hare and the Hatter are having tea at the table. A Dormouse is sitting between them, fast asleep. The other two are using the Dormouse as a cushion, resting their elbows on it, and the talking over its head. The table is a large one, but the three are all crowded together at one corner.

March Hare (loudly) No room! No room!
and Hatter

Alice (indignantly) There’s PLENTY of room!

March Hare (in an encouraging tone) Have some wine.

Alice (looking round the table) I don’t see any wine

March Hare There isn’t any.

Alice (angrily) Then it wasn’t very civil of you to offer it

March Hare It wasn’t very civil of you to sit down without being invited.

Alice I didn’t know it was YOUR table. It’s laid for a great many more than three.

Hatter Your hair wants cutting

Alice (severely) You should learn not to make personal remarks. It’s very rude.

Hatter (opening his eyes widely) Why is a raven like a writing-desk?

Alice I believe I can guess that.

March Hare Do you mean that you think you can find out the answer to it?

Alice Exactly so

March Hare Then you should say what you mean.

Alice (hastily) I do. At least--at least I mean what I say--that’s the same thing, you know.

Hatter Not the same thing a bit! You might just as well say that "I see what I eat" is the same thing as "I eat what I see"!

March Hare You might just as well say that "I like what I get" is the same thing as "I get what I like"!

Dormouse (seems to be talking in his sleep) You might just as well say that "I breathe when I sleep" is the same thing as "I sleep when I breathe"!

Hatter It IS the same thing with you.

(turning to Alice) What day of the month is it?
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Alice The fourth
Hatter (looking at his watch and sighing) Two days wrong!
(looking angrily at the March Hare) I told you butter wouldn’t suit the works!
March Hare (meekly) It was the BEST butter.
Hatter (grumbling) Yes, but some crumbs must have got in as well. You shouldn’t have put it in with the bread-knife.
March Hare (taking the watch and dipping it in his cup of tea) It was the BEST butter, you know.
Alice What a funny watch! It tells the day of the month, and doesn’t tell what o’clock it is!
Hatter Why should it? Does YOUR watch tell you what year it is?
Alice Of course not. But that’s because it stays the same year for such a long time together.
Hatter Which is just the case with MINE.
Alice (politely, but puzzled) I don’t quite understand you.
Hatter (pouring tea on the Dormouse’s nose) The Dormouse is asleep again.
Dormouse (shaking its head, but not opening its eyes) Of course, of course; just what I was going to remark myself.
Hatter (turning to Alice) Have you guessed the riddle yet?
Alice No, I give it up. What’s the answer?
Hatter I haven’t the slightest idea.
March Hare Nor I.
Alice (sighing wearily) I think you might do something better with the time than waste it in asking riddles that have no answers.
March Hare Suppose we change the subject?
I’m getting tired of this. I vote the young lady tells us a story.
Alice (alarmed) I’m afraid I don’t know one.
March Hare and Hatter (loudly) Then the Dormouse shall!
Dormouse (pinching the Dormouse on both sides at once) Wake up, Dormouse!
Dormouse (slowly opening his eyes) I wasn’t asleep.
( feeably) I heard every word you fellows were saying.
March Hare Tell us a story!
Alice Yes, please do!
Hatter And be quick about it, or you’ll be asleep again before it’s done.
Dormouse (hurriedly) Once upon a time there were three little sisters and their names were Elsie, Lacie, and Tillie; and they lived at the bottom of a well--
Alice What did they live on?
Dormouse They lived on treacle.
Alice (gently) They couldn’t have done that, you know. They’d have been ill.
Dormouse So they were. VERY ill.
Alice But why did they live at the bottom of a well?

March Hare (earnestly) Take some more tea.
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Alice I’ve had nothing yet, so I can’t take more.
Hatter You mean you can’t take LESS. It’s very easy to take MORE than nothing.
Alice Nobody asked YOUR opinion.
Hatter (triumphantly) Who’s making personal remarks now?
Alice (turning to the Dormouse) Why did they live at the bottom of a well?
Dormouse It was a treacle-well.
Alice (angrily) There’s no such thing!
Hatter and March Hare Sh! sh
Dormouse (sulkily) If you can’t be civil, you’d better finish the story for yourself.
Alice (humbly) No, please go on! I won’t interrupt again. I dare say there may be ONE.
Dormouse (indignantly) One, indeed! And so these three little sisters--they were learning to
draw, you know--
Alice What did they draw?
Dormouse Treacle
Hatter I want a clean cup. Let’s all move one place on.
(everyone moves one place round the table)
Alice But I don’t understand. Where did they draw the treacle from?
Hatter You can draw water out of a water-well,’ said the Hatter; ‘so I should think you
could draw treacle out of a treacle-well--eh, stupid?
Alice But they were IN the well
Dormouse Of course they were. Well in.
(yawning and rubbing its eyes, getting very sleepy) They were learning to draw, and
they drew all manner of things--everything that begins with an M—(closes eyes)
Alice Why with an M?
March Hare Why not?
Dormouse (wakes up) --that begins with an M, such as mouse-traps, and the moon, and memory,
and muchness-- you know you say things are "much of a muchness"--did you ever
see such a thing as a drawing of a muchness?
Alice (very much confused) Really, now you ask me, ‘I don’t think--
Hatter Then you shouldn’t talk!

(This piece of rudeness is more than Alice can bear: she gets up in
great disgust, and walks off. The Dormouse falls asleep instantly. The
Hatter and the March Hare don’t notice her leaving, since they are
trying to put the Dormouse into the teapot.)