Lewis Carroll, who was born Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, had a terrible stuttering problem. Because of this problem, even as an adult, Charles felt more comfortable around children than adults. Charles loved to tell and write stories, and he found that children loved to hear his stories.

On July 4, 1862, Charles went on a picnic with some friends up the Isis River. One of the children on the picnic was a ten year old girl named Alice. Alice begged Charles to tell her one of his stories. So he began telling her about a young girl named Alice and her adventures underground.

At the end of the day, Alice told Charles that she hoped he would write Alice’s stories down for her. Charles promised her that he would try. Three years later to that very day, Alice received her very own copy of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland. It wasn’t the first book that Charles wrote, but it was the first book that he wrote under the name Lewis Carroll.
How Lewis Discovered Alice

by Kimberly M. Hutmacher

1. What is the author's purpose for writing this passage?
   a. to explain why Lewis Carroll wrote Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
   b. to describe the plot of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
   c. to make readers aware of challenges faced by people with stuttering problems
   d. to explain why Charles Lutwidge Dodgson chose the pen name Lewis Carroll

2. When did Charles give Alice her own copy of Alice's Adventures in Wonderland?
   Write the month, day, and year.
   ________________________________________________________________________

3. Which word probably best describes Charles Lutwidge Dodgson? (Circle one.)
   courageous       creative       confident
   Why did you choose this word?
   ________________________________________________________________________
   ________________________________________________________________________

4. True or false?
   _______ Charles Lutwidge Dodgson's first book was Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.
   _______ Alice asked Charles to write down his stories.
   _______ Alice's Adventures in Wonderland was written over 140 years ago.
How Lewis Discovered Alice

Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story. Then, write the full word on the line.

1. ___ n ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ n ___
   clue: below the Earth's surface

2. ___ ___ e ___ ___ u ___ ___ s
   clue: exciting or unusual experiences

clue: outdoor meal

3. ___ i ___

clue: having difficulty speaking

4. ___ ___ ___ t ___ ___ ___ ___ n  g

clue: pleaded

5. ___ g ___ e d

clue: agreed to do something

6. ___ ___ ___ ___ s ___ d

clue: young people

7. ___ ___ i ___ ___ ___ ___

8. ___ e ___ ___ s

clue: groups of 365 days
ANSWER KEY

How Lewis Discovered Alice
by Kimberly M. Hutmacher

1. What is the author’s purpose for writing this passage?  a
   a. to explain why Lewis Caroll wrote Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland
   b. to describe the plot of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland
   c. to make readers aware of challenges faced by people with stuttering problems
   d. to explain why Charles Lutwidge Dodgson chose the pen name Lewis Carroll

2. When did Charles give Alice her own copy of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland? Write the month, day, and year.
   July 4, 1865

3. Which word probably best describes Charles Lutwidge Dodgson? (Circle one.)
   courageous  creative  confident

   Why did you choose this word?
   Because it is a unique story with an unusual plot; Writers need to be creative to make interesting stories

4. Tell whether each sentence is true or false.
   false  Charles Lutwidge Dodgson’s first book was Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland.
   true  Alice asked Charles to write down his stories.
   true  Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland was written over 140 years ago.
How Lewis Discovered Alice
Vocabulary Activity

Fill in the missing letters to create a word from the story. Then, write the full word on the line.

1. **u n d e r g r o u n d**
   clue: below the Earth’s surface
   1. **underground**

2. **a d v e n t u r e s**
   clue: exciting or unusual experiences
   2. **adventures**

3. **p i c n i c**
   clue: outdoor meal
   3. **picnic**

4. **s t u t t e r i n g**
   clue: having difficulty speaking
   4. **stuttering**

5. **b e g g e d**
   clue: pleaded
   5. **begged**

6. **p r o m i s e d**
   clue: agreed to do something
   6. **promised**

7. **c h i l d r e n**
   clue: young people
   7. **children**

8. **y e a r s**
   clue: groups of 365 days
   8. **years**