Chapter 3
A Caucus Race and a Long Tale

What has happened so far in the book? Can you summarise and retell the main events to someone in your house?

Summary: (How did you do?)
The main character, Alice, stumbled on to a strange world after she followed a mysterious white rabbit. In this passage, Alice shrunk to a very small size and almost drowned. She met some other creatures who also had a hard time in the water, including a lory, or parrot, a crab, a mouse, and a canary. The mouse began to tell a story, but Alice made the mouse angry and it left.

Before you listen to chapter 3, read the extract in the box below and see if you can use the context to figure out the missing words.

'Please come back and __________ your story!' Alice called after it; and the others all joined in chorus, 'Yes, please do!' but the Mouse only shook its head __________________, and walked a little quicker.

'What a pity it wouldn't stay!' sighed the Lory, as soon as it was quite out of sight; and an old Crab took the opportunity of ____________ to her daughter 'Ah, my dear! Let this be a lesson to you never to lose your temper!'

'Hold your tongue, Ma!' said the young Crab, a little ______________. 'You're enough to try the patience of an oyster!'

'I wish I had our Dinah here, I know I do!' said Alice aloud, addressing nobody in particular. 'She'd soon ___________ it back!'

'And who is Dinah, if I might venture to ask the question?' said the Lory. Alice replied _____________, for she was always ready to talk about her pet: 'Dinah's our cat. And she's such a capital one for catching mice you can't think! And oh, I wish you could see her after the birds! Why, she'll eat a little bird as soon as look at it!'

This speech caused a remarkable ______________ among the party. Some of the birds hurried off at once: one old Magpie began wrapping itself up very carefully, remarking, 'I really must be getting home; the night-air doesn't suit my throat!' and a Canary called out in a _____________ voice to its children, 'Come away, my dears! It's high time you were all in bed!' On various pretexts they all _____________ off, and Alice was soon left ____________.

'I wish I hadn't mentioned Dinah!' she said to herself in a ______________ tone. 'Nobody seems to like her, down here, and I'm sure she's the best cat in the world! Oh, my dear Dinah! I wonder if I shall ever see you any more!' And here poor Alice began to _____________ again, for she felt very lonely and ______________.

In a little while, however, she again heard a little ______________ of footsteps in the distance, and she looked up eagerly, half hoping that the Mouse had changed his mind, and was coming back to finish his story.

When you listen to the story, see if your choice of word had the same meaning as the one Lewis Carroll chose. Look up any words you do not understand.
Comprehension questions

1. Which animal did Alice have an argument with?

2. Which animal was the most authoritative (took control)?

3. ...‘some of the other birds tittered audibly’
   What does this phrase mean? (Circle the correct answer)
   
   Cried  Tickled each other  Laughed to themselves  Laughed aloud

4. What shape was the race-course?

5. Who won the caucus race?

6. What prize was Alice given for winning the race?

7. Why was this a strange prize?

8. Why do you think none of the animals like Dinah (Alice’s cat)?

9. How do you think Alice is feeling at the end of Chapter 3?
   Explain your answer in detail given proof from the story (you don’t need exact quotes, just support your idea).