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The Perpetual Today: The Use of Time in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

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Oral Presentation 4.4

**THE PERPETUAL TODAY: THE USE OF TIME IN
*ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND***

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The Victorian era was a period obsessed with Time and all things related to it. While Time and time measurement were by no means new concepts, current developments in science, industry, and society raised serious questions about the actual nature and meaning of time. The popular interest in Time is reflected in the literature of the period. Frequently, Time, as a symbol, was used to evoke images of hopelessness, death, and decay, yet in Lewis Carrol's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, Time is manipulated for a different effect. In Wonderland, a different concept of time is created. The characters are removed from "rational" time, yet paradoxically, obsessed with its passage. While this passage is associated with only negative events, Carrol manages to reduce Time to nonsense, thus appealing to children through his creation of a perpetual today.