

Lewis Carroll. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland -- From Chapter 8. "The Queen's Croquet-Ground"

'Get to your places!' shouted the Queen in a voice of thunder, and people began running about in all directions, tumbling up against each other; however, they got settled down in a minute or two, and the game began. Alice thought she had never seen such a curious croquet-ground in her life; it was all ridges and furrows; the balls were live hedgehogs, the mallets live flamingoes, and the soldiers had to double themselves up and to stand on their hands and feet, to make the arches.

The chief difficulty Alice found at first was in managing her flamingo: she succeeded in getting its body tucked away, comfortably enough, under her arm, with its legs hanging down, but generally, just as she had got its neck nicely straightened out, and was going to give the hedgehog a blow with its head, it WOULD twist itself round and look up in her face, with such a puzzled expression that she could not help bursting out laughing: and when she had got its head down, and was going to begin again, it was very provoking to find that the hedgehog had unrolled itself, and was in the act of crawling away: besides all this, there was generally a ridge or furrow in the way wherever she wanted to send the hedgehog to, and, as the doubled-up soldiers were always getting up and walking off to other parts of the ground, Alice soon came to the conclusion that it was a very difficult game indeed.

The players all played at once without waiting for turns, quarrelling all the while, and fighting for the hedgehogs; and in a very short time the Queen was in a furious passion, and went stamping about, and shouting 'Off with his head!' or 'Off with her head!' about once in a minute.

Alice began to feel very uneasy: to be sure, she had not as yet had any dispute with the Queen, but she knew that it might happen any minute, 'and then,' thought she, 'what would become of me? They're dreadfully fond of beheading people here; the great wonder is, that there's any one left alive!'

Define Each Word

furrow: _____

mallet: _____

burst: _____

provoke: _____

quarrel: _____

Write the Correct Word from the Vocabulary

1. The chef pounded the chicken breasts with a special _____ designed to flatten meats.
2. When the two sisters _____, they speak to each other in a derogatory manner using caustic, hurtful words.
3. The heckler's relentless taunting _____ the standup comedian to respond with insults aimed at the heckler's physical features.
4. When the irate customer frowned at the clerk, deep _____ formed along the wrinkle lines on his forehead.
5. The radish seedlings _____ through the loose topsoil within one week of being planted.

Comprehension and Discussion: Answer Each Question in Complete Sentences

1. What difficulties does Alice experience when playing croquet?

2. How is the Queen portrayed? What words from the text help to establish this portrayal?

