

ALICE AND HER TEACHERS

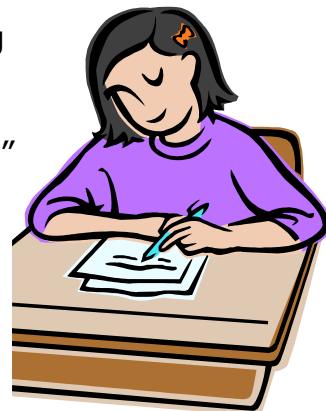
by Leonard Galit (lengalit@msn.com)
used in Book 2, Lesson 8



Alice is going to kindergarten this year. Her sister Audrey is going to fourth grade. They are both learning how to write... Alice is learning how to print while Audrey is learning cursive script.

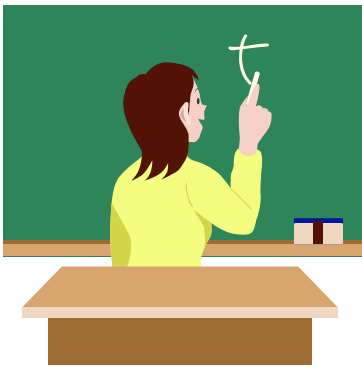
One afternoon, while they were sitting together and doing their homework, Alice said, "Audrey, your writing is bad; let me show you how to write."

Audrey laughed and replied, "Alice, I have already learned how to print; now I am learning to write cursive letters." But Alice was not convinced.



So she told her mother, "Mom! Audrey laughed at me! And she is not doing her homework properly."

Their mother, who was preparing dinner, had heard what the girls had said. She answered her younger daughter saying, "Alice, Audrey knows how to write. She is learning a different way of writing letters, so she will be able to write faster than before. When you get older you will also learn this new way to write."



But Alice was still upset. She wasn't going to give up her position so easily. So she told her mother, "I am not going to learn any new way to write. I think the way Mrs. Chen is teaching me is the right way. I don't want to learn any other way."

Their mother then came and down sat next to Alice. She told her about what it means to go to school. "Every year you are going to have a new teacher. The things you learn in kindergarten are important, but you are going to learn different things in first grade. Then you'll go to second grade, and third grade, and so on. In each grade you'll learn something new that builds on top of what you learned before. If you stop learning when you're still

young, you will find it hard to take care of yourself and your family when you're older. Remember when you were three years old, and you had a lot of trouble putting on your jacket? You couldn't button it, so you left it open and felt cold all the time. Now you can button your jacket very well, so when you feel cold, you can close it."



Alice thought for a moment and said, "Now I can

button my coat, tie my shoes, and put all my clothes on by myself. What will I learn to do next?"

Their mother looked at her and said, "Well, how about learning how to set the table for dinner!"

They all laughed.

Example Discussion Questions for Story

- Why did Alice think Audrey was doing things in the wrong way? (Alice thought that the way she was learning was the only one; she did not know about the cursive way of writing because she is not ready, too young to learn that way.)
- What did their mother say to help Alice understand that her older sister was writing correctly? (She told Alice that Audrey was learning a new way to write faster.)
- What would happen to Alice stopped learning? (She would not be able to take care of herself when she got older because her knowledge would be too limited)
- What are some things you have learned recently that you did not know how to do before? (The children answer the question, after which the teacher points out how we all grow and learn more)
- How are God's Messengers like school teachers? (They teach us new things that we have to learn, like how to live together to make a world a better place, to have peace instead of war, and to pray to God so we can feel good and be nice to others.)
- Do your teachers argue and fight with each other, saying that what they teach is wrong and bad? (No, of course not. So the Messengers of God do not teach things that are wrong, even if some people think they say different things.)
- Why do some people think their religion is right and others are wrong? (They are like Alice. They do not want to learn new things and think only the things they know are correct, so everything else must be wrong.)