

Caterpillar It isn't confusing.
Alice Well, when one day you turn into a chrysalis, and then a butterfly, you will see what it's like to feel confused.

Caterpillar No I won't. You! Who are you?

Alice I think you ought to tell me who you are.

Caterpillar Why?

[Alice sighs and leaves.]

Caterpillar Come back I've something important to say.

[Alice comes back.]

Caterpillar Keep your temper.

[Alice sighs and leaves.]

Scene Nine – The Kitchen

[The Duchess, Cook and Cat enter followed by a footman and then by Alice. The Duchess is rocking a baby, the cook is adding pepper to the soup. Everyone, except the cook is sneezing from the pepper.]

Footman For you Duchess. An invitation from the Queen to play croquet. *[Duchess snatches the invitation.]* An invitation from the Queen to play croquet.

Duchess I heard you the first time. Now go, shoo, shoo. Be off with you.

[The footman runs away.]

Duchess *[Sneezes.]* There's too much pepper in that soup!

Alice Please would you tell me, why does your cat grin?

Duchess It's a Cheshire cat, and that's why. *[Shouts to the baby]* PIG!

[Alice jumps.]

Alice I didn't know Cheshire cats could grin.

Duchess They all can and most of them do! You don't know much, and that's a fact!

[The cook throws a spoon, Alice and the Duchess duck.]

Alice Oh please mind what you're doing!

Duchess If everybody minded their own business, the world would go round a great deal faster than it does.

Alice Which would not be an advantage.

Duchess Chop off her head!

Cook and *[Rocking the baby.]*

Duchess

Speak roughly to your little boy,
And beat him when he sneezes
He only does it to annoy,
Because he knows it teases.
Wow! Wow! Wow!

Duchess I must go and get ready to play croquet with the queen.

[The Duchess, Cook and Alice leave.]