

This project was something entirely new to me. I have never made anything quite like this before, so even while I was planning it, I had no idea how it was going to turn out. I originally got the idea to make this stand from Pinterest. I was scrolling through the website, and I saw simple version of it that was being used to hold cookies. I decided that something like this would be a great way to demonstrate various aspects of *Through the Looking-Glass and What Alice Found There*.

I wanted to incorporate mirrors into this project, so I decided to use them to make the platforms for each level. The entire Looking-Glass world is centered around a mirror, so it has a prominent role in the story. Carroll also makes use of the reflection or backwardness of mirrors, so I also tried to make use of the reflection on the mirrors. To do this, I put a chess board on the bottom of each mirror to be reflected in the one below. The red and white crowns also make use of the reflection. I painted half of the outside of the crown red and the other half white. I did the same on the inside, but I did it so that the colors would be facing the same direction. For example, the red side of both the outside and inside of the crown would be facing the viewer. By doing this, if the viewer looks at the stand from certain angles, there would be a full red crown or a full white crown in the reflection of the mirror below them. The crowns also directly pertain to the story. Alice spends the entire story trying to become a queen, so I put the gold crown on top for her. I made the red and white crown for the Red and White Queen. I also decided to flip it upside down to make use of the reflection as well as demonstrate the strangeness of the Looking-Glass world.

I wanted to include aspects of the story other than the queens, but I did not want to put the characters themselves. To incorporate different story lines and chapters, I decided to put a brick wall around part of the middle tier for the chapter with Humpty Dumpty in which he sat precariously on a wall and spoke with Alice. I also put pearls around each of the tiers to represent the chapter with Tweedledum and Tweedledee. Tweedledee told Alice the story of the walrus and the carpenter in which they ate all of the oysters.

Much of this project was either created by hand or I assembled it. I bought the mirrors, the candle sticks to separate the tiers, and the pearl beads, but everything else was drawn and painted or colored. I used a black marker to make the chess board on the bottom of each tier. I drew and painted each of the three crowns, and I also drew and colored the brick wall. Everything was then hot-glued together, including each individual pearl bead.

Throughout elementary school and junior high, I always made gifts for people rather than buying them. Ever since then, I have liked to make things. I have made a variety of things including ornaments, wreaths, scrapbooks, picture collages, canvases, and multiple other things. Since I have been at Butler, however, I have had limited time to do any of this. While I have made time to paint canvases, I have been wanting to spend time on some other crafts. This project was a great opportunity for me to do something that I never would have outside of class.

For the next steps of the semester, I wanted to do a project that was different from anything I had ever done before. While I have always enjoyed creating different things, I have never had the need to make any type of stand before. It was also different for me in that I have never made use of a reflection as part of anything I have ever created. Until I was completely finished with the project, I was not even sure that it would turn out well. While it was challenging to create, I enjoyed trying something new.

