

The *Alice* Personality Quiz: Which *Alice* Character Are You?

1. Is your family...
 - a. Doing their best, but, as role-models, they're not up to your expectations.
 - b. Into nudism and falling apart.
 - c. Loving but too controlling.
2. Do you prefer that boys be...
 - a. Sweet, kind, and sometimes redheaded...
 - b. Available in quantity and on demand!
 - c. At a distance and keeping their hands to themselves.
3. What's the worst thing that ever happened to you?
 - a. Your mom died.
 - b. Your mom ran off with a NordicTrack instructor.
 - c. I don't want to talk about it.
4. You generally wear...
 - a. Whatever's clean.
 - b. Whatever's sexy.
 - c. Whatever's cute, but not giving the wrong impression.
5. Are you more...
 - a. Easily embarrassed.
 - b. Easily convinced to take a dare.
 - c. Easily convinced that the worst possible thing is going to happen.
6. When making decisions, you are...
 - a. Self-confident.
 - b. Impulsive.
 - c. Too nervous to decide.
7. When talking about sex, you want to know...
 - a. Everything, but you wish you had someone to ask besides your dad and your brother.
 - b. Absolutely everything.
 - c. Only as much as is absolutely necessary.
8. During your first year of high school, you...
 - a. Get involved in lots of clubs and activities.
 - b. Drop out of drama—if you can't be the best, then why bother?
 - c. Spend a lot of time babysitting.

If you answered with mostly a's...

You're Alice, the easily embarrassed heroine of the series.

If you answered with mostly b's...

You're Pamela, Alice's bold, intrepid, and impulsive friend.

If you answered with mostly c's

You're Elizabeth, Alice's beautiful and anxious friend.

**Performing Girlhood, Performing Self:
The *Alice* Books by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor**

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Abstract:

The *Alice* books by Naylor are realistic fiction for girls, showing girl characters performing gender in everyday life. This poster takes Judith Butler's concept of gender as performative and explores the tensions between passive acceptance of gender norms and active choosing of gender norms or resistance to those norms. Feminist analyses should examine both how gender norms constrain performances of self as well as the agency of characters and the active role-models they offer readers. Such agency can be overlooked by an analysis that focuses too deterministically on the hegemonic force of gender. Butler's notion of "performance" opens the door to a richer understanding of agency within the historical and cultural constraints of gender norms. This poster examines the three main characters in the *Alice* series, Alice, Elizabeth, and Pamela, in light of the tension between hegemonic gender norms and individual agency, and proposes the personality quiz as an analogy for how readers may interpret the performances of gender enacted by characters in realistic fiction.

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