

TEI By Example



TEI by Example. Module 4

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

3. Lewis Carroll: *The Mouse's Tale*.....1

3. Lewis Carroll: *The Mouse's Tale*

The following example is an excerpt from Lewis Carroll's *The Mouse's Tale*, a poem appearing in the third chapter of *Alice in Wonderland*. It is a concrete poem in which the lines consist of only a couple of words, laid out in such a way that they visualise the mouse's winding tail:

"Fury said to
 a mouse, That
 he met
 in the
 house,
 'Let us
 both go
 to law :
I will
 prosecute
you.—
 Come, I'll
 take no
 denial ;
 We must
 have a
 trial :
 For
 really
 this
 morning
 I've
 nothing
 to do.'

Said the
 mouse to
 the cur,
 'Such a
 trial,
 dear sir,
 With no
 jury or
 judge,
 would be
 wasting
 our breath.'
 'I'll be
 judge,
 I'll be
 jury,'
 Said
 cunning
 old Fury ;
 'I'll try
 the whole
 cause,
 and
 condemn
 you
 to
 death.' "

Fig. 1.

For the encoder, this specific visual layout challenges the TEI's orientation towards logical structures to some extent. In the example, the visual lines are encoded as logical lines (<L>); the

visual particularities (font size, indentation) are formalised as values of a **@rend** attribute on each line. Of course, any value system is allowed for the **@rend** attribute; it's up to the rendition layer to decide how to interpret these values and format them on the screen / in print.

Alternatively, the lines could have been treated on a more logical level, spanning multiple physical lines. The line breaks then could have been encoded with **<lb/>** elements, and specific visual characteristics as values for **@rend** attributes on **<seg>** elements. Since the spaces are quite significant, the TEI special purpose element **<space>** could have been used as well.

```

<lg>
  <l rend="font-size(110%) indent(-60)">"Fury said to</l>
  <l rend="font-size(100%) indent(-40px)">a mouse, That</l>
  <l rend="font-size(100%) indent(0px)">he met</l>
  <l rend="font-size(100%) indent(10px)">in the</l>
  <l rend="font-size(100%) indent(20px)">house,</l>
  <l rend="font-size(100%) indent(17px)">'Let us</l>
  <l rend="font-size(100%) indent(5px)">both go</l>
  <l rend="font-size(100%) indent(-7px)">to law:</l>
  <l rend="font-size(100%) indent(-23px)"><hi rend="italic">I</hi> will</l>
  <l rend="font-size(100%) indent(-26px)">prosecute</l>
  <l rend="font-size(90%) indent(-40px)"><hi rend="italic">you.</hi> —</l>
  <l rend="font-size(90%) indent(-30px)">Come, I'll</l>
  <l rend="font-size(90%) indent(-20px)">take no</l>
  <l rend="font-size(90%) indent(-7px)">denial;</l>
  <l rend="font-size(90%) indent(19px)">We must</l>
  <l rend="font-size(90%) indent(45px)">have a</l>
  <l rend="font-size(90%) indent(67px)">trial:</l>
  <l rend="font-size(90%) indent(80px)">For</l>
  <l rend="font-size(80%) indent(70px)">really</l>
  <l rend="font-size(80%) indent(57px)">this</l>
  <l rend="font-size(80%) indent(75px)">morning</l>
  <l rend="font-size(80%) indent(95px)">I've</l>
  <l rend="font-size(80%) indent(77px)">nothing</l>
  <l rend="font-size(80%) indent(57px)">to do.'</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(38px)">Said the</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(30px)">mouse to</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(18px)">the cur,</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(22px)">'Such a</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(37px)">trial,</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(27px)">dear sir,</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(9px)">With no</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(-8px)">jury or</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(-18px)">judge,</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(-6px)">would be</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(7px)">wasting</l>
  <l rend="font-size(70%) indent(25px)">our breath.'</l>
  <l rend="font-size(60%) indent(30px)">'I'll be</l>
  <l rend="font-size(60%) indent(24px)">judge,</l>
  <l rend="font-size(60%) indent(15px)">'I'll be</l>
  <l rend="font-size(60%) indent(2px)">jury,</l>
  <l rend="font-size(60%) indent(-4px)">Said</l>

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<l rend="font-size(60%) indent(17px)">cunning</l>
<l rend="font-size(60%) indent(29px)">old Fury;</l>
<l rend="font-size(60%) indent(37px)">'I'll try</l>
<l rend="font-size(60%) indent(51px)">the whole</l>
<l rend="font-size(60%) indent(70px)">cause,</l>
<l rend="font-size(60%) indent(65px)">and</l>
<l rend="font-size(60%) indent(60px)">condemn</l>
<l rend="font-size(60%) indent(60px)">you</l>
<l rend="font-size(60%) indent(68px)">to</l>
<l rend="font-size(60%) indent(82px)">death.' "</l>
</lg>

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1

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- 1 TBE crafted example encoding of Carroll, Lewis (1865). *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. New York: D. Appleton and co., 37, based on its hypertext encoding at <http://bootless.net/mouse.html>.