



# Jabberwocky

Lewis Carroll (1872)

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

“Beware the Jabberwock, my son!  
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!  
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun  
The frumious Bandersnatch!”

He took his vorpal sword in hand;  
Long time the manxome foe he sought -  
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,  
And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,  
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,  
Came wiffing through the tulgey wood,  
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through  
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!  
He left it dead, and with its head  
He went galumphing back.

“And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?  
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!  
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!”  
He chortled in his joy.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:  
All mimsy were the borogoves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.





# Jabberwocky Comprehension

I can read a poem and answer a range of questions about it.



These questions are about the poem **Jabberwocky**.

Choose the best word or group of words and put a **ring** around your choice.

1. What does the poet warn his son that he needs to **shun**?

Jubjub birds

Tumtum trees

The Jabberwock

The Bandersnatch

2. What do you think a "vorpal sword" is?

A type of fruit

A type of plant

A type of weapon

A type of animal

3. What word class do you think **galumphing** (line 20) is?

noun

adverb

adjective

verb

4. Why did our hero have to rest by the Tumtum tree? Explain your answer using evidence from the poem.

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5. Did the hero kill the Jabberwock? Explain your answer using information from the poem.

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6. In the last stanza, the poet repeats the first stanza. What is the effect of this?

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7. The poem is very similar to a fairy tale. Explain why, using evidence from the text.

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## Reading Comprehension Answers

1. The Bandersnatch
2. A type of weapon
3. Verb
4. **Award 2 marks** for answers which refer to him resting because he was tired from searching for the Jabberwock for a long time - 'Long time the manxome foe he sought'. **Award 1 mark** for a correct answer without a relevant quote from the text.
5. **Award 2 marks** for answers which refer to the fact that he did kill/slay the Jabberwock with evidence from the text to support their answer 'He left it dead, and with its head'. **Award 1 mark** for a correct answer without a relevant quote from the text.
6. **Award 1 mark** for reference to the following points - Because the final stanza is an exact repetition of the first, these two units perform a parenthetical function. The repetition of the opening stanza at the end tells the reader that although a major change has happened to the boy and the others he lives with, **the action has had no major effect on the world in general**. After the boy has slain the monster; the toves, borogroves, and raths still go on as they had before.
7. **Award 1 mark** for each point
  - The poem includes beasts/villains such as the Jabberwock, Jubjub bird and Bandersnatch like a fairy tale.
  - The poem includes a brave hero like a fairy tale.
  - There is a problem/dilemma that needs solving and fairy tales often have these.
  - The poem has a happy ending like is often found in fairy tales.
  - There is a magical setting, which can also be found in fairy tales.