

Jabberwocky

from Through the Looking Glass
by Lewis Carroll

In this sequel to Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll writes one of the most famous nonsense poems in literature. Many of the words were invented by Carroll and have no real meaning. Nevertheless, readers can still understand what happens in the poem.

'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.

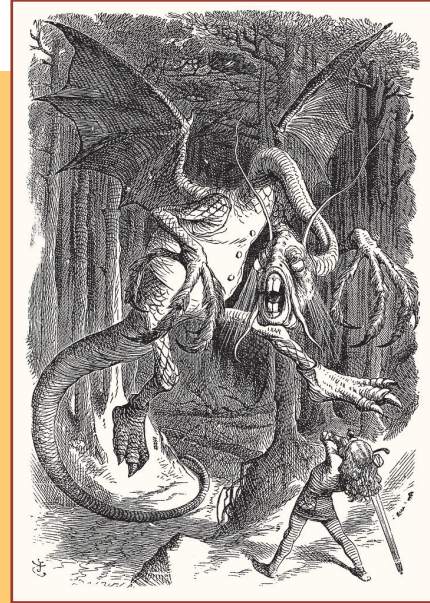
And as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffing through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!

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.

Name: _____



What Is It?

Determine if each of the following nonsense words from the poem is a noun, verb, adjective or adverb. Circle the correct letter.

1. frumious
a. noun b. verb c. adjective d. adverb
2. galumphing
a. noun b. verb c. adjective d. adverb
3. wabe
a. noun b. verb c. adjective d. adverb
4. toves
a. noun b. verb c. adjective d. adverb
5. gyre
a. noun b. verb c. adjective d. adverb
6. beamish
a. noun b. verb c. adjective d. adverb
3. borogoves
a. noun b. verb c. adjective d. adverb
3. whiffing
a. noun b. verb c. adjective d. adverb