

Jabberwocky

- The Jabberwocky is a nonsense poem written by Lewis Carroll. Nonsense poems are poems that intentionally don't make a lot of sense. Some use made-up words, while others contradict themselves or use language in random or unusual ways.
- Some of the most famous poems of all time, such as Lewis Carroll's "Jabberwocky" and Edward Lear's "The Owl and the Pussycat" are nonsense poems. This week we will be looking at the Jabberwocky.



"THE JABBERWOCK, WITH EYES OF FLAME,
GAVE MURDERING THROUGH THE KILLER HOOD."

Put the correct definitions with each word class.

Nouns	Adjectives	Verbs	Adverbs	Prepositions

a word used to identify people, places, or things or to name a particular one of these

a word that expresses an action

a word that modifies (describes) a verb

words that usually describe the position of something

words that are used to help describe or give description to people, places, and things

Monday

Put these words under the correct word class.

Nouns	Adjectives	Verbs	Adverbs	Prepositions

upstairs

honest under

carefully dance letter

paper rejected

pulled aggressively

against desolate

coughing

Mary bitter

between courage

trustfully love

unblemished

Increase your vocab!

'twas	: it was
awhile	: a short time
burble	: gush, babble
chortle	: laugh
gyre	: a circular or swirling motion
shun	: avoid
slay	: kill
thou	: you, in old English

Jabberwocky

'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 whiffling 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.

Click on this link to see the wonderful Michael Rosen recite the Jabberwocky.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBFSIGDZC-Y>

Comprehension

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.

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

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

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

Write a real alternative which is the same word type and makes sense in the poem.

Noun - twilight

Adjective -

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

noun -

Adjective -

verb -

noun -

Nonsense word	What I think it means	Real word which could be used instead
frumious		
manxome		
uffish		
outgrabe		
Snicker-snack		
frabjous		

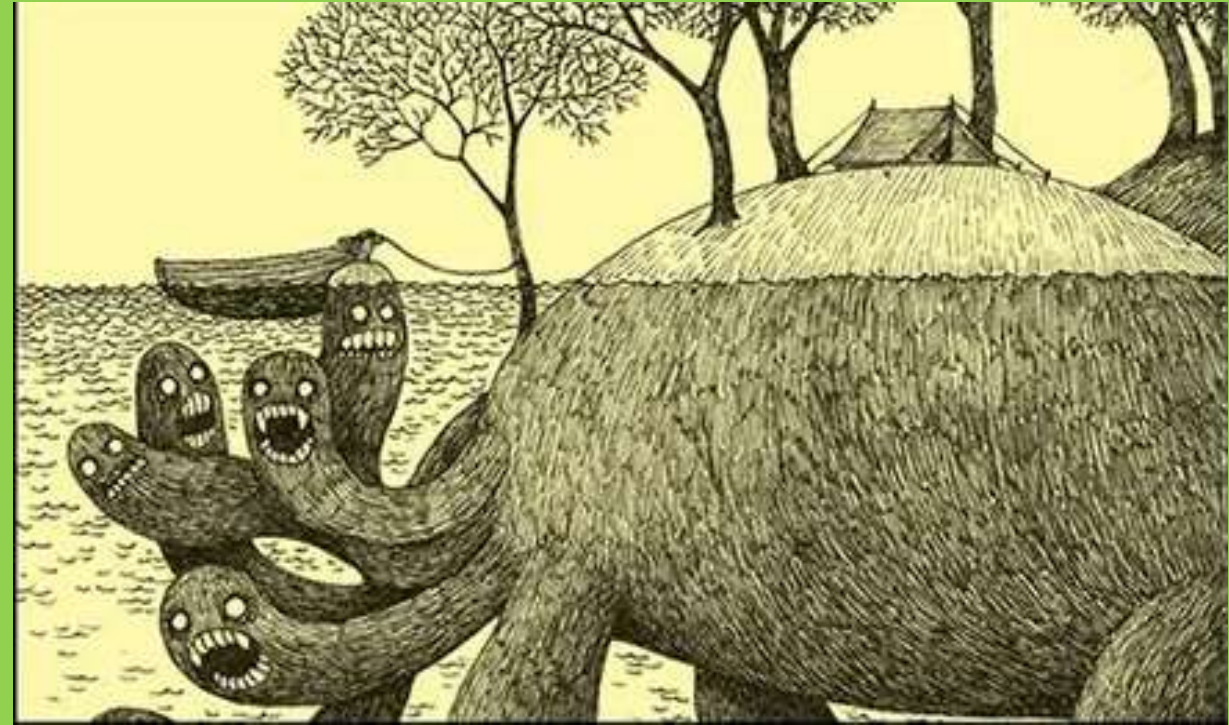
Extra: Use a dictionary or the internet to discover definitions for some of the other unusual words used in the poem that are real words.

Word	Definition
gyre	
chortled	
mimsy	
burbled	

Tuesday

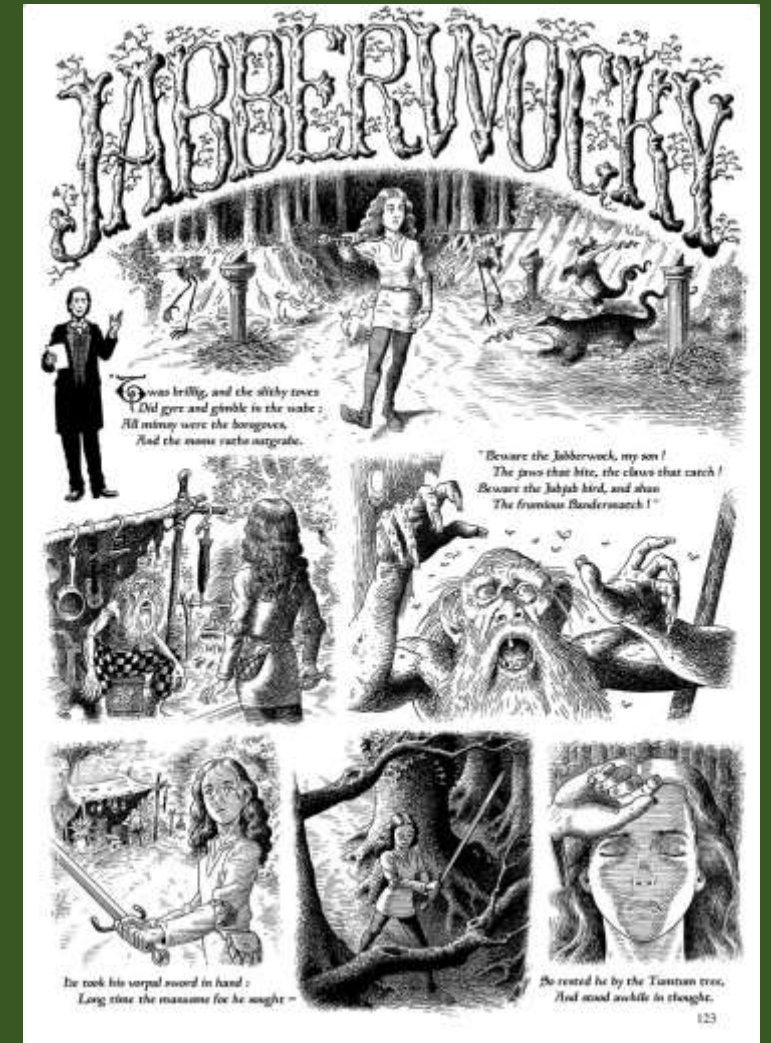
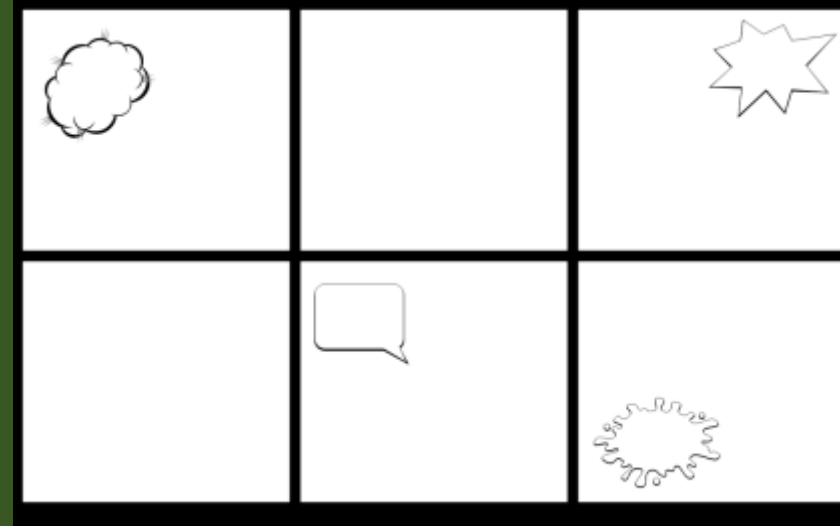
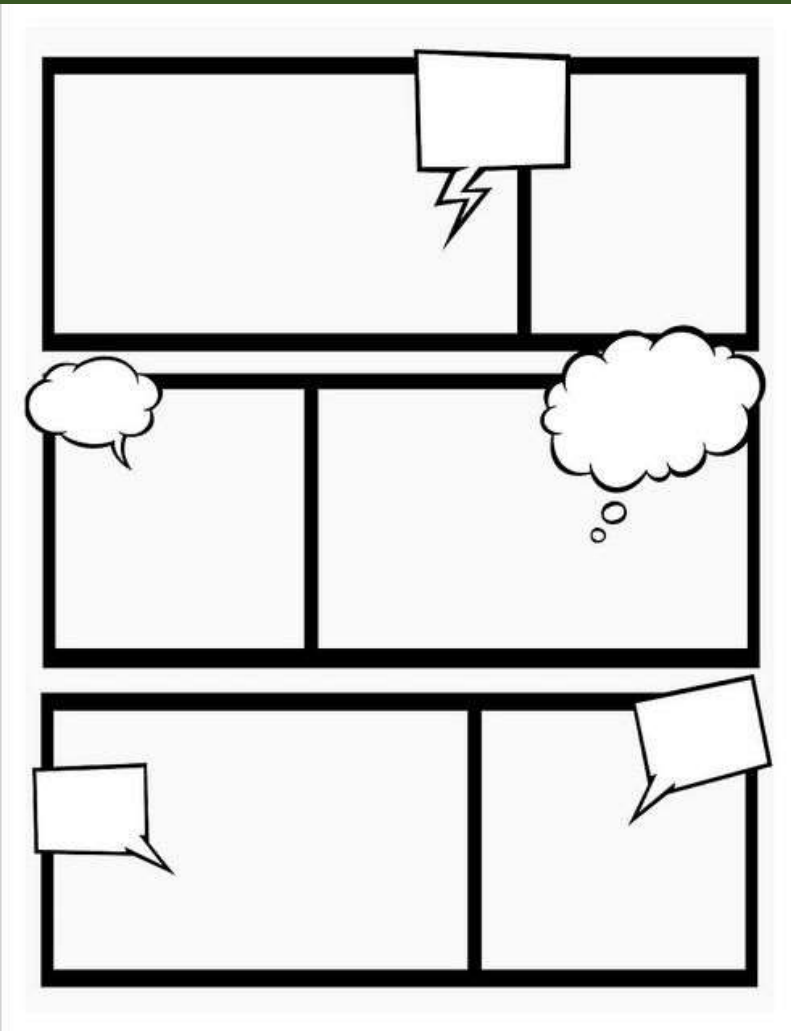
Create your own nonsense words to describe one of these creatures.

Put your words into sentences.



Wednesday

Your task today is to provide your own interpretations of the Jabberwocky. You can do this as a piece of narrative or non-fiction writing or as a comic book strip. If you need support with the story, look at the next slide for the structure of the Jabberwocky.



Wednesday

Stanza 1:

It was a dark forest, in the evening, and strange creatures were about.

Stanza 2:

A parent is telling his child to be careful of three monsters: the Jabberwock, the Jubjub Bird and the Bandersnatch.

Stanza 3:

The child takes their sword and goes out to hunt the Jabberwock, then rests and thinks by the Tumtum tree.

Stanza 4:

As the child rests, the Jabberwocky comes quickly at them with eyes aflame.

Stanza 5:

The child kills the Jabberwocky, cuts off its head and walks confidently home.

Stanza 6:

The parent and child celebrate the death.

Stanza 7:

It was a dark forest, in the afternoon, and the creatures were all about.

Your task today is to create an image of the Jabberwocky. You can be as creative as you like with this. For example, you can draw it with pen or pencil, you could create it out of magazine cuttings, from found things or rubbish.

Take note of its description in the poem.

Once you have done this, create your own nonsense words (verbs, nouns and adjectives) to describe it. Next to the words, write a definition for your new words.

Look at the next slide for artists' impressions of the Jabberwocky.

Thursday



Friday

Your task today is to create your own poem inspired by the Jabberwocky. You can use the creatures and the words you created from slide 8 or create your own creature. Look at the next slide for some tips to help create your nonsense poem.

You can use the structure of the Jabberwocky below to help with the structure of your poem if you wish to.

Stanza 1:

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Stanza 3:

The child takes their sword and goes out to hunt the Jabberwock, then rests and thinks by the Tumtum tree.

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There are all sorts of ways of creating a nonsense poem.

As Carroll did, following the rules of English grammar when writing nonsense verse makes your poem seem more than gibberish. However, feel free to invent as many new words as possible to stand in for your nouns, verbs, adjectives and so on. That said, you need not know what every word "really" means.

Tip1: When you finally start writing, don't worry about the results. Write until you feel you have created a new world with your language, a feeling similar to what you sensed when you first read "Jabberwocky." Stop every now and then to read aloud what you've written. Let your ear tell you when the poem sounds finished.

Tip2: Write a poem like you normally would. Then, take away the important words in each line. The important words would be nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Replace those words with something completely made up. Then, read your poem aloud and see how different it sounds.

Tip 3: For an opposite method, you can begin by coming up with a list of new words. They can sound as vermittin and knassic as you want! You'll need to create a definition for each one. Make sure you know how it fits into a sentence, either by using it in an example sentence or by classifying it as a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb. Once you have your brand new sparglik words, use them in your own poem! Write with ordinary smaller words that connect your nonsense words together into a whole new poem.