

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, has 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.



Cut up the discussion prompts and place in a box. Pupils take turns in choosing one of the prompts and discuss their ideas in small groups.

In the poem the father warns his son not to go near the Jabberwock but he does anyway. Do you think a girl would have behaved in this way?

Despite a warning the boy still seeks out the Jabberwock. Do you think this is what his father always intended?

What do you think the boy was thinking as he stood by the Tumtum tree?

The slaying of the Jabberwock appears to happen very quickly. Why do you think the poet did this?

Why is there such celebration at the end of the poem?

What is the impact of repeating the first verse at the end? Does it tell us that nothing has really changed despite the killing?

What does the poet's description of the setting tell the reader?