



Jabberwocky - by Lewis Carol

READ ON FOR SOME SCARY SILLINESS (and some silly scariness)!

Jabberwocky is a poem written by Lewis Carol, the same author that wrote Alice in Wonderland. The poem tells the story of a boy who defeats a monster called the Jabberwocky. The poem uses imaginative and descriptive language as well as some nonsense words to create a creepy and surreal atmosphere.

At the beginning of the poem, in an afternoon, some strange creatures are making noises. Because of the noises, one father warns his son that there is a creature called 'Jabberwocky' with terrible teeth and claws. The father tells the son that the strange creatures live in the dense woods. Others strange animals like 'jubjub bird' and 'bandersnatch' also reside in the horrible forest. The son takes out his sword and sets off in search of those strange creatures...

But what do those strange creatures look like? Does the son defeat the Jabberwocky? Read the full poem below to find out then try these art activities.

1. Find all of the words and phrases that describe the appearance of the Jabberwocky. Use these to draw a picture of what the Jabberwocky looks like. Add the horrible forest as a background. (*You could use the Surrealism art activity to help with this*)
2. There are 7 verses to the poem. You could create a story book or comic by illustrating each verse. Copy out the words as they are in the poem or translate them to make more sense to you. We could share these in our school library.



NONSENSICAL POEM

Jabberwocky

'**T**WAS brillig, and the slithy
toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

"**B**EWARE 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!

QUE, 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 Jab-
berwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
He chortled in his joy.

'**T**WAS brillig, and the slithy
toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe. 

LEWIS CARROLL



