



# Jabberwocky and Other Poems

*Lewis Carroll*

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*Lewis Carroll*

## **Jabberwocky and Other Poems** Lewis Carroll

Carefully chosen collection contains 34 of Carroll's most appealing verses — nonsense verse, parodies, burlesques, more — including such unforgettable pieces as "The Walrus and the Carpenter," "The Mock Turtle's Song," and "Father William," as well as such lesser-known gems as "My Fancy," "A Sea Dirge," "Brother and Sister," "Hiawatha's Photographing," "The Mad Gardener's Song," "What Tottles Meant," "Poeta Fit, non Nascitur," "The Little Man That Had a Little Gun," and many others.

## **Jabberwocky and Other Poems Details**

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Author : Lewis Carroll

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## Baker says

### JABBERWOCKY

Lewis Carroll  
(from Through the Looking-Glass  
and What Alice Found There, 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 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.

~~~~~

This was the first poem I remember  
that got me hooked on poetry.  
Loved the sound of the nonsense

words and how they rolled.  
This poem opened up a whole new world for me.  
Wrote my first poem at the age of 9.  
My class was asked to write a poem based on a Psalm of David. I won a prize and my poem was selected as the best out of all the primary schools in my home town.

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### **Katrina says**

This is a book of nonsense poetry that appeals to all ages, but specifically to young children. Jabberwocky itself was presented in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" and the wording of the poem is of Lewis Carroll's own invention. The lyricism is playful and the content entertaining. The illustrations are whimsical and mirror those seen in Carroll's other works. Just like "Wonderland", the poem and illustrations throw you into an inverted world where nothing is as it seems and allow your imagination to run wild. I have always enjoyed this poem throughout my childhood and adult life, just like with most of Carroll's work.

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### **Leah Mullenaux says**

I read only one of these poems, Jabberwocky, illustrated by Joel Stewart. It simply took Lewis Carroll's original nonsense poem and illustrated it. It made a lot more sense reading it with the pictures acting it out, because most of the time, I had no idea what Carroll was saying with those crazy made up words. It was a simple book, not much to it. I didn't enjoy it too much because I didn't learn anything from it. I could be wrong because I didn't analyze it too much, but I don't feel like it teaches a lesson or anything. I think it was just a nonsense adventure story about a boy slaying a scary monster. I didn't feel any different after I read it, and I didn't like that.

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### **G.C. Neff says**

When I first read Jabberwocky back in school, I was enthralled. Here was a fun, nonsense poem that made me smile. So I got a copy of Jabberwocky and Other Poems by Lewis Carroll and read the entire book (okay, so it's a short book) in one day.

And I found that the Jabberwocky still makes me smile. As well as some of the other poems in the book. I have some other books by Lewis Carroll on my shelves to read. I'm certain I'll be smiling more once I get into them.

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### **GoldGato says**

*We are building little homes on the sands*

And time does indeed flit away, burbling and chortling. Cheshire Charles of Carroll created such whimsical poetry, it was *frabjous* to read his collected poems, albeit usually in a public space with curious onlookers trying to determine exactly what was in my book. That's because I had the gorgeous clothbound edition with the knockout dragonesque design by Coralie Bickford-Smith.

*All in the golden afternoon  
Full leisurely we glide*

There is so much to love and marvel over with Mr. Dodgson. Snobby phantoms, mock turtles, fluttery bakers...each page a candy store of words and letters. Every time I thought I had a new favorite, but onward came the next page and memory started anew.

*They sought it with thimbles, they sought it with care;  
They pursued it with forks and hope*

Obviously, there are untold numbers of Lewis Carroll poetry books, so let me make a case for this specific volume. A member of the now famous Penguin Cloth Classics, it merits a place in your collection, even if you don't purchase p-books. Meticulous notes, ribbon marker, and bio plus the aforementioned cover art make this a Top-Shelf addition (and a nice little gift, if need be).

*I think of that strange wanderer  
Upon the lonely moor*

That was Lewis Carroll, a strange wanderer in a lonely world.

Vorpal.

Book Season = Winter (when midnight mists are creeping)

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## **Erin Halpin says**

Jabberwocky is a nonsense poem by Lewis Carroll--really, it's nonsense! Carroll created this poem, about the killing of a creature named the 'Jabberwock,' using nonsense words and a rhyming pattern of ABAB CDCD EFEF, and so on. This poem was included in Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass* novel. Interestingly enough, the character Alice notes that "It seems very pretty," she said when she had finished it, "but it's rather hard to understand!" (You see she didn't like to confess, even to herself, that she couldn't make it out at all.) 'Somehow it seems to fill my head with ideas—only I don't exactly know what they are! However, somebody killed something: that's clear, at any rate.'" Alice gets the point of the poem: despite its confusing language, it is memorable.

This poem is not only an excellent tie-in to conflict (Is it OK to write with nonsense words? What does this poem mean?!) but it is also a great model text for getting students to think about WORD CHOICE in their own writing. In Chapter 6 of *Creating Writers*, Spandel discusses the importance of word choice in student writing, noting that word choice can create images in the reader's mind, explain concepts, and lead to a stronger voice. I would use Jabberwocky as a mentor text for students in order to create stronger word choice in their writing. I would have students write down the phrases or words that they feel are strong for word choice while reading. They can use Logographic Cues from Beers Chapter 7: Constructing meaning in order

to mark where they find particularly memorable words or phrases. Then, students can model their own poem or short story using similarly interesting and varied word choice. Even though these are nonsense words, they do "fill [your] head with ideas," as Alice states in *Through the Looking Glass*--even if students are not creating their own nonsense words, they are still modeling after the poem for ideas of how to create strong word choice.

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### **Mariam Abood says**

This is one of my favourite poems ever just because of the fact this poem throws no punches and actually admits to being a nonsense poem. Because honestly, the amount of pretentious waffle I had to read in school and then make a profound interpretation from, just did my head in, and then this bad boy came along, and all the pretentious kids in the class were clueless because they couldn't make sense of this poem. It was so fucking funny and so brilliant.

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### **Relyn says**

I love the poem *Jabberwock*, but some of Carroll's other poetry just doesn't do it for me. This time I was sharing the book with Sloane and my class. I adore being the first to read the poem to children. They TOTALLY get the poem and follow the story far, far better than most adults. I think it's because they are still so very involved in their own imaginary lives. It's a poem that is always a hit. One year when I introduced the poem to my fourth graders, I taught them about nonsense words (as usual.) It was wonderful because they all began to use "Caloo Calay!" as an exclamation and congratulation. I do love kids!

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### **Julie says**

My daughter can recite this nonsense poem by heart. I don't know how she does it.

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### **Katrina says**

A little bit disappointed to be honest...I loved the poems in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass, because I thought they were thought provoking, a little melancholy, meaningful in obscure ways. I enjoyed these poems more than the other ones. I thought they would be more meaningful, I just found them a bit dull and factual, with no other meaning. I'm not good at analysing poems so I probably missed the point of a lot of them. Maybe I just prefer sad romantic poetry; if you do then I am not sure this is the poetry for you. Still talented though, and I really enjoyed The Walrus And The Carpenter.

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### **Joe Turk says**

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

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## Salóme says

I enjoyed reading this book of poems. Can't say I liked all of them but some I liked very much. Many of them are funny in an absurd way. If you want to see examples then I'd recommend poems like "The Walrus and the Carpenter" and "A Sea Dirge". The latter starts like this:

### *A Sea Dirge*

*There are certain things - as, a spider, a ghost,  
The income-tax, gout, an umbrella for three -  
That I hate, but the thing that I hate the most  
Is a thing they call the Sea.*

*Pour some salt water over the floor -  
Ugly I'm sure you'll allow it to be:  
Suppose it extended a mile or more,  
THAT'S very like the Sea.*

etc.....

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## Jon Mowjoudi says

"The time has come," the Walrus said,  
"To talk of many things:  
Of shoes--and ships--and sealing-wax--  
Of cabbages--and kings--  
And why the sea is boiling hot--  
And whether pigs have wings."

A memorable verse from an iconic poem, "The Walrus and the Carpenter", one of Carroll's most revered works alongside the titular "Jabberwocky". It tells the story of a cunning pair - the poetic Walrus and his complementary accomplice the Carpenter - and their encounter with a rather unfortunate bunch of oysters who eventually become the pair's supper. Both aforementioned poems exemplify the skill of Carroll as a master of metre - the verses flow fluidly from the tongue of the reader, making it a great tool for engaging young children learning classic poetry in schools.

For a piece to encourage the flowing of creative juices, look no further than Jabberwocky - a 'nonsense verse' that has a very clear grammatical structure but employs the use of fantastical words that are figments of Carroll's vivid imagination, though there is no doubt the listener will be as wary as the protagonist of the "frumious Bandersnatch". All in all, this makes for an excellent collection that should be made readily available to children and young adults of all ages.

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**Tony Thomas says**

I love Lewis Carroll - total genius!!

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**Zacaro Caro says**

Well, I have to admit that I'm confused about this author. He is like Dr Suess, making up words I can't read and will never know what they mean. I don't like Dr Suess and I don't like Carroll. I wrote a poem about it actually.

But here's the deal, I like the Jabberwocky and some of the nonsense poems in this book. When Carroll was asked to help enlighten people on the meanings of some of his made up words his grasp of language made me rethink my distaste. Isn't it odd that when you read his nonsense words you still get an idea of what they might mean? Check out the wikipedia page on the Jabberwocky.

Here's my poem about Dr Suess. My opinion is yet to change:

Dr Suess is a hack, making up words like Shirley and hords and  
shumarahack it's hard on a parent to read these silly rhymes, i'm  
tripping on my words half of the times. A fun thing to do, i'll talk  
nonsense To you. Here is a picture of a zimbobabaroo. These made up  
things are scary to see, a poor little kid will look and then flee,  
"come here" we will say, "and read! Look here and see, a scary picture of a  
Zimbababweed!" "and now you have had a story or two, get in your bed,  
I'm not sleeping with you! A monster isn't scary, they are just very  
hairly. My bed is no safer, please face your fears and be a bit braver.  
Why did I read Dr Suess to you?! Next time I'll read "my cow that says 'moo.'"

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