

Contents

Poems:

1. <i>'You are old, Father William'</i> by Lewis Carroll	p2
2. <i>The Naughty Boy</i> by John Keats	p7
3. <i>The Story of Fidgety Philip</i> by Heinrich Hoffman	p12
4. <i>The Jabberwocky</i> by Lewis Carroll	p16
5. <i>The Land of Counterpane</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson	p20
6. <i>How Do I Love Thee?</i> by EB Browning	p23
7. <i>Sonnet 18: Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?</i> By William Shakespeare	p28
8. <i>One Art</i> by Elizabeth Bishop	p32
9. <i>Bread and Music</i> by Conrad Aiken	p36
10. <i>The Dream</i> by Alexander Pushkin	p40
Answers	p44

How to use this book

These beautiful poems can be read aloud in any order and can be returned to often to be enjoyed for years to come.

The poems and questions grow steadily harder throughout this book. Therefore, students are advised to do the worksheets in order, and to make sure they understand any mistakes before moving on to the next pages.



The Jabberwocky

By Lewis Carroll (from *Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There*)

‘**Twas**¹ brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

1 **‘twas** it was

‘Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and **shun**²
The frumious Bandersnatch!’

2 **shun** to ignore

He took his **vorpal**³ sword in hand:
Long time the manxome foe he **sought**⁴ --
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,
And stood **awhile**⁵ in thought.

3 **vorpal** deadly

4 **sought** looked for

5 **awhile** for a short time

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**⁶ back.

6 **galumphing** to walk clumsily

‘And, has thou **slain**⁷ the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my **beamish**⁸ boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!
He **chortled**⁹ in his joy.

7 **slain** killed

8 **beamish** joyful

9 **chortled** laughed deeply

‘Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.



Understanding Content

1 Who begins to talk in stanza 2?

2 What are the 'Jubjub bird' and 'frumious Bandersnatch'?

- A** family pets
- b** people
- c** famous warriors
- d** other dangerous animals

3 Translate 'Long time the manxome foe he sought' into your own words.

4 What does 'with eyes of flame' tell us about the Jabberwocky? Circle all that could apply.

- a** the jabberwocky is ill
- b** the jabberwocky is angry
- c** the jabberwocky is dangerous
- d** the jabberwocky had been crying

5 What literary device is 'snicker-snack'- an example of?

- a** juxtaposition
- b** oxymoron
- c** onomatopoeia
- d** irony

6 Why do you think the boy takes the Jabberwocky's head back with him?

7 Why does the father say 'And, has thou slain the Jabberwock?' even though he can see the boy has its head in his hands?

8 What effect do you think the writer repeating the last stanza has?

Nonsense Language

Lewis Carroll’s Jabberwocky is full of what is called **nonsense language**. Many of the words in the poem have been made up to help construct Carroll’s magical world. However, we can still tell what type of word they are by looking at their position in the poem and how they work with other words from the same line or stanza. For example, we know that ‘vorpal’ is an adjective because it is used to describe the following noun ‘sword’.

1 Look at the words ‘brillig’, ‘mimsy’ and ‘uffish’ and think about how they are used in the poem. What type of words are they?

- a verbs
- b adjectives
- c nouns

2 What type of words are ‘galumphing’, ‘frumious’, and ‘whiffling’?

- a verbs
- b adjectives
- c nouns

3 Decide whether the following words are adjectives (A) or verbs (V).

- a Gyre _____
- b Gimble _____
- c Manxome _____
- d Tulgey _____

4 In stanza 6, the poet celebrates the killing of the jabberwocky at the hands of his child. This context can help us to work out the meaning of some of the nonsense words in the stanza, many of which sound similar to real English words. Complete the exercise by replacing each word in **bold** with a real word that carries the same meaning.

a 'O **frabjous** day!' _____

b '**Callooh! Callay!**' _____

5 Now try making up your own words! Fill in the gaps with a made-up word which fits the parts of speech on the right.

a And the birds _____ in the wind. (past tense verb)

b The _____ man had a _____ beard. (adjectives)

c The _____ played a game with the _____. (nouns)

The Jabberwocky

1 What do you think the jabberwocky might be?

a a monster

b a person

c a cave

2 Although we know that the Jabberwocky has 'eyes of flame', Lewis Carroll doesn't reveal much about its appearance. Why do you think this is?

3 Draw what you think the Jabberwocky might look like.

