



# Jabberwocky

*Lewis Carroll*

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**Jabberwocky** Lewis Carroll

**The world's best-loved nonsense poem inspires a fresh, enchantingly surreal treatment in this beautiful edition from an exciting new talent.**

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

So begins "Jabberwocky," one of the most celebrated nonsense poems in the English language. The poem first appeared in 1872 in Lewis Carroll's classic **THROUGH THE LOOKING-GLASS AND WHAT ALICE FOUND THERE**, and since then, its mysterious and lyrical lines have delighted readers of all ages. With great wit and imagination, illustrator Joel Stewart offers a singular vision of the world of "Jabberwocky" and all its memorable creatures.

## Jabberwocky Details

Date : Published January 1st 1977 by Warne (first published January 1st 1872)

ISBN : 9780723261452

Author : Lewis Carroll

Format : Hardcover

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## **From Reader Review Jabberwocky for online ebook**

### **Marion Jacobs says**

Again this was a book that I read when I too was at school. At the time I really enjoyed it and having re read it I feel the same. It is a really clever and witty short poem with lovely illustrations. It would make a really nice short story to read to the class and begin a small introduction and discussion into poetry. It could raise all kinds of questions in the class such as what differentiates a poem from a story, what is a poem and all other kinds of questions. The story is very simple, about a boy who slays a, what I can only describe as, horrid monster. What makes this poem stand out is the nonsense words used in the poem and the way the author plays on childrens imagination through the wording and imagery used. As I said, this is a short fun read and would be great to read to the class. I think this book would be suitable for ages 6 and up.

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### **John says**

I thought this was the best version of the Jabberwocky. Lewis Carroll and Graeme Base as a combination were so strong together. Such an imaginative, even somewhat scary book, that I really loved as a young reader. I checked this one out multiple times and still have a copy that I hope to share someday.

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### **Dianna says**

I've been reading my four-year-old all the editions of Jabberwocky I can get my hands on, because he loves the poem. I found this one in the teen section and it should definitely stay there. :)

The illustrations seem to depict some sort of futuristic, fantastic military society and I didn't really get it. Of course, I was turning the pages a bit fast in places to keep my son from the blood. Whoops.

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### **Megan (ReadingRover) says**

This book is a lovely illustrated version of the Jabberwocky poem from Lewis Carroll's Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There. The poem is the same with all of its nonsense words left for your interpretation and the illustrations help to decode them. The illustrations in this book are beautifully painted with an almost dreamlike quality. They bring the magical beings like the borogroves and the jubjub birds to life. Humpty Dumpty moves from page to page walking you through the story. At the end there is a part called Annotations by Humpty Dumpty. This section is also an excerpt from the original book and it is a conversation between Alice and Humpty Dumpty in which he explains the meaning of the nonsense words from the poem to her. It made for quite a curious book!

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### **Jo (An Unexpected Bookish Geek) says**

This has been a firm favourite of mine throughout the years. Instead of a bedtime story, I demanded The Jabberwocky. It never got old, it never got tiresome. Sure, it's essentially a lot of nonsense, but that is what makes it so wonderful.

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### **Marsha says**

Jabberwocky is the first book in a classic poetry series illustrated by some of today's most talented and imaginative artists. Newly re-imagined by the artist Stéphane Jorisch, this Jabberwocky becomes a treatise on warfare, gender roles, rigid expectations by those considered our elders and the self-serving babble spoken by those in authority. The true end of the Jabberwock exposes how monsters can be blown out of all proportion. Jorisch's illustrations show a childlike simplicity with an adult message.

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### **Levi says**

I've always loved this poem and I spotted this at the library today. There are some fantastic (in many senses of the word) drawings. This helped bring out the poem's charm, even if things weren't quite as I envisioned them in my head. Awesome edition of this classic poem!

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### **Megan says**

The text of Carroll's famous poem with beautiful full-page illustrations. There is more or less a two-page spread per two verses of the poem, and the illustrations are beautifully detailed and convey a great deal of emotion. My kids love it, and it's inspired them go to about killing Jibjub birds and Jabberwocks all over our house. It's a nice way to introduce heroic poetry to small children since the poem isn't very long, and the theme is clear and vividly portrayed in these illustrations. Even though some of the words are Carroll's own inventions, I see this as a bonus because you can talk with your kids about what they think the words mean based in the illustrations, and let them explore language that way. Even though Humpty Dumpty does explain most of the nonsense words in Through the Looking Glass, even he leaves a lot of it to the reader, and so I think introducing that sort of relationship with a text is great for little kids.

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### **Ilana Waters says**

One of my favorite Graeme Base books (I really need to stop saying that about every one of his books). I love the re-imagining of the monster Jabberwock (pretty scary, actually!). Then there's the handsome prince who sets forth to slay him, whose outfit would not be out of fashion for a 1980's rock star (the book was published in the late 80's). There are the fantastical combinations of other creatures as well. And I love the funny little details--like the prince's horse--who has a different hood ornament on his head in every picture. I can't believe it took me so long to find this little treasure.

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## **SherwoodDemon says**

This is my very favorite poem by Carroll. :) I can quote the whole thing. :) Sounds like utter nonsense at first look, but it's actually quite an exciting fantasy tale. :) Love.

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## **Emily Ross says**

I really liked the poem, I thought it was nonsense but really nice.

My complaint is specific to this audiobook that I was listening to, and that was the background effects. They fit with the poem but they were rather distracting and for how short the poem actually is, I don't feel that it needed them at all.

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## **GeraniumCat says**

I bought this for the illustration, having discovered it during a Pinterest trawl. Graeme Base is an Australian artist, and brings an exoticism to the poem which works well with the verbal inventiveness of the text. Strange beasts and birds frolic through the pages (gyring and gimbling in the wabe?), while the beamish young knight sets forth on his charger, eventually to encounter the Jabberwock.

What more can I say? If you love this poem as much as I do, then I think you'll enjoy the colour and vivacity of the artwork, and if you've already got multiple versions, I'm sure you won't mind adding another. If you don't know the poem - well then, you ought to. Go and find it.

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## **Lara says**

Saw this version of *Jabberwocky* illustrated by Christopher Myers while pulling holds in junior nonfiction yesterday and was intrigued. Basketball is not what I've imagined when I've thought of this poem up until now, but it totally works! I liked the story the illustrations tell and how they made me think of this poem in a completely different way than I ever had before. Just a super cool concept--I want to read more re-imaginings of classic poems now!

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## **Lauren Stoolfire says**

This retelling of the classic nonsense poem has been reimagined within a basketball context; the Jabberwocky is a huge, scary basketball player and the Vorpal Sword is now a pair of basketball sneakers. The artwork is very bright yet ominous at the same time; these qualities are also reflected in the way the original text of the poem is presented on the page – large, uneven, and brightly colored. For children, I think it would be interesting to determine how they interpret the images and the words compared to the context of the original poem.

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## **Miriam says**

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'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, m

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## **Nerdylicious says**

\*\*\*Read For school\*\*\*

Nonetheless, I really loved his nonsensical writing style!

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## **(NS)Jordyn says**

One of the cool things about poems is the idea that everyone hears or sees something different in them. In this version of the Jabberwocky, the illustrator envisions the clash as a one on one basketball game between to extremely unmatched opponents. The illustrations and colors used in this book are phenomenal and may just entice even the most reluctant of poets (or poetry readers) to take a chance on an "old" poem redux. Useful with grades 3 and up (maybe even high school???).

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## **Nathan says**

Ah, Graeme Base and Lewis Carroll. Over a frumious Bandersnatch they would have become great friends, I think, had they lived in the same century.

I stumbled on this book while exploring Jabberwocky. I remembered Base's The Eleventh Hour (my favorite book as a kid), so picked it up.

The book was in the library's children section. This makes sense, but it's also sad. Carroll's poem and Base's illustration marry into a rich story for even the curious adult.

Two pages in particular caught me: The illustration of the son waiting at the Tumtum tree with the background emerging foot of the Jabberwock. And Base's final picture of the Jabberwock's head mounted amongst others. They each put a twist on Carroll's poem. Was the Jabberwocky just one amongst others...?

"O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!" Both poem and artwork here are beautiful. It stirs a creative chord in me. Recommended for all.

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### **Maggie Gordon says**

My partner has a lot of love for the Jabberwocky, so when I discovered one of our favourite poetry series took a stab at this one, I had to grab it as a surprise! This particular series illustrates popular poems, and the imagery for Jabberwocky is strange and a bit surreal. It tells a confusing visual story that's quite fitting of the words that it follows.

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### **Leanne Stoltzfus says**

Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll

This classic poem is printed throughout the book with stunning illustrations by Stephane Jorisch that helps the visualizations come to life. This interactive book helps grab the interest of 3-5 grade students although quite gruesome. This poem is filled with non-sense words which allow for interpretation from the audience. These gibberish words allow for participation from the reader.

My personal interpretation of the poem through the pictures and words:

The monster that is the Jabberwocky comes to live throughout the book which strikes fear in the characters and the reader. The illustrations lead the reader to believe that there is a war against the Jabberwocky. There are images with veterans and military propaganda on the TVs. The mother in the story warns her son "Beware of the Jabberwocky" multiple times. The son gets a special sword and ends up murdering the Jabberwocky in a bloody scene. There continues to be a lengthy recession for the funeral of the dreaded Jabberwocky. At the very end of the book, the last picture leads the reader to believe that this was the active imagination of a young boy and two of his friends acting out the sense with make-believe toys and swords.

Interestingly enough, when I picked this book I talked about it with the librarian. I had asked her if the pictures helped understand the story with the nonsense words. She responded no because she already had experiences with this poem from Alice in Wonderland and read the story through that particular lens. I think this could be a cool talking point for people who read this particular book or read this poem published by different companies and discuss the interpretations of the intriguing poem with the support of different illustrators and themes. This could even be a challenge book for a book club to find different versions of this book and then discuss their interpretation of the poem.

I think this book could be used in a variety of ways in the elementary classroom. My favorite idea of how this book could be used in the classroom is this book could be the start to a study on language. Looking at the nonsense words and discovering why these words have interpretations and that reader of this book can

understand the flow of the story even with the addition of these gibberish words. This book can allow for the study of the origins of language and the creation of the English language with the different base or root words scattered throughout the language.

Another exciting way to use this book in the classroom is to explain how the poem evokes emotion without many words and some nonsense words. The discussion could focus on how through illustration, text font, and concise wordings the effect of the story can still be portrayed. I think that some times that these words, without deep thought of the specific gibberish words can allow the imaginations of the reader to change or alter the readers' experience.

Naturally this book can be used on a unit of poetry. The way the words are printed, each page has a different rhyming scheme or none at all. This lesson could discuss the variety and flexibility that poets have when writing. This poem also shows that one could make up words to convey an emotion or get their point across in a unique and memorable way.

I think this poem could be used in the 3-5 classroom with relative ease and quality instruction and comprehension.

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