



Comprehension questions

1. Who are the characters in this poem?
2. Which dangerous beasts are mentioned in the poem?
3. Describe the Jabberwock. Use evidence from the poem to support your answer.
4. How did the father know that his son had killed the Jabberwock?
5. What was the son doing when he first saw the Jabberwock?
6. How did the father feel when he discovered his son had killed the Jabberwock?
7. The first and last verses are repeats of one another. What is the effect of this in the poem?
8. In a few sentences (around 50 words), tell the story of this poem in your own words.



Reading activities

1

Identify as many of the nonsense words as you can. Group them by the part of speech you think they belong to (e.g. noun, adjective). Explain to a partner how you decided which type of word they were.

2

Choose some of the nonsense words and create new definitions for them. Try to imitate the way a dictionary would provide a definition. Have a look in the dictionary to see how definitions are written and set out.



Writing tasks

1

'Translate' this poem into Standard English, creating a poem of your own that tells the same story as you understand it.

2

Take one or more nonsense words from the poem and write a story based on them. They should feature in your story's title and be the main idea or character. You will have to develop the idea of this word from your own imagination.

3

Alice encounters a backwards world in this book. Write an account (in any form) of being in a world that is altered in some way (e.g. it might be backwards, upside down, inside out, time might be reversed, and so on).



Speak up!

What is language?