

Jabberwocky

by Lewis Carroll (public domain) 4 voices plus chorus 24 lines

All ages: Nonsense words and a mock-heroic battle; nothing to frighten. A favourite for EAL oracy.

Source: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/12>

Staging: Nonsense begs for big voices: one voice per stanza, warnings and battle cries to everyone.

Cast

Voice One -- 8 cues

Voice Two -- 8 cues

Voice Three -- 4 cues

Voice Four -- 4 cues

Script

VOICE ONE

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

VOICE TWO

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!"

VOICE THREE

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.

VOICE FOUR

And as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffing through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!

VOICE ONE

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.

VOICE TWO

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
He chortled in his joy.

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