

### **Guided Reading – Wednesday**

As you know, Jabberwocky is featured in Lewis Carroll's stories about a young girl called Alice. Watch this clip from 1 minute 53 seconds to 4 minutes 54 seconds. Humpty Dumpty explains to Alice the meaning of the first verse.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RDIE-COWOcM>

This is what Humpty Dumpty tells Alice:

'That's enough to begin with,' Humpty Dumpty interrupted: 'there are plenty of hard words there. "BRILLIG" means four o'clock in the afternoon--the time when you begin BROILING things for dinner.'

'That'll do very well,' said Alice: and "SLITHY"?

'Well, "SLITHY" means "lithe and slimy." "Lithe" is the same as "active." You see it's like a portmanteau--there are two meanings packed up into one word.'

'I see it now,' Alice remarked thoughtfully: 'and what are "TOVES"?

'Well, "TOVES" are something like badgers--they're something like lizards--and they're something like corkscrews.'

'They must be very curious looking creatures.'

'They are that,' said Humpty Dumpty: 'also they make their nests under sun-dials--also they live on cheese.'

'Andy what's the "GYRE" and to "GIMBLE"?

'To "GYRE" is to go round and round like a gyroscope. To "GIMBLE" is to make holes like a gimlet.'

'And "THE WABE" is the grass-plot round a sun-dial, I suppose?' said Alice, surprised at her own ingenuity.

'Of course it is. It's called "WABE," you know, because it goes a long way before it, and a long way behind it--'

'And a long way beyond it on each side,' Alice added.

'Exactly so. Well, then, "MIMSY" is "flimsy and miserable"

(there's another portmanteau for you). And a "BOROGOVE" is a thin shabby-looking bird with its feathers sticking out all round--something like a live mop.'

'And then "MOME RATHS"?' said Alice. 'I'm afraid I'm giving you a great deal of trouble.'

'Well, a "RATH" is a sort of green pig: but "MOME" I'm not certain about. I think it's short for "from home"--meaning that they'd lost their way, you know.'

'And what does "OUTGRABE" mean?'

'Well, "OUTGRABING" is something between bellowing and whistling, with a kind of sneeze in the middle: however, you'll hear it done, maybe--down in the wood yonder--and when you've once heard it you'll be QUITE content. Who's been repeating all that hard stuff to you?'

Humpty Dumpty talks about portmanteau words. A portmanteau word is a word that has been made from parts of two other words.

**Here are some portmanteau words:**

Advertorial – an advert and an editorial

Brash – bold and rash (or brave and rash)

Bumble – bungle and stumble

Docudrama – documentary and drama

Edutainment – Education and entertainment

Emoticon – emotion and icon

Ginormous – gigantic and enormous.

Can you work out which words have been used to make these portmanteau words, and say what they mean? (answers at the bottom)

Guesstimate

Infomercial

Motel

Skyjack

Now try to make up some portmanteau words of your own.

word	+	word	=	portmanteau word

## Jabberwocky

BY LEWIS CARROLL (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 hast 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.

### Answers

Guesstimate – to guess and estimate

Infomercial – an informative commercial

Motel – a motor hotel used by passing motorists.

Skyjack – like a hijack, but of aircrafts only.

