

Year 9 English – Home Learning Pack 5

Task One – Spoken Language

Jabberwocky

Lewis Carroll

A few years ago, World Book Day was based around Alice in Wonderland. This is a nonsense poem from the book.

Discuss with a trusted partner what you think the Jabberwocky is all about!



'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.

Task Two – Reading

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE: AN EXCERPT FROM ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND BY LEWIS CARROLL 1865

Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832-1898), better known by his penname Lewis Carroll, was an English writer, mathematician, and Anglican minister. His best-known work is Alice's Adventures in Wonderland which tells the tale of a young girl who falls into a world of nonsense. As you read, take notes on how Carroll presents the character of Alice within the text.

Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, 'and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice 'without pictures or conversation?'

So she was considering in her own mind (as well as she could, for the hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid), when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her.

There was nothing so very remarkable in that; nor did Alice think it so very much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself, 'Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!', when the Rabbit actually took a watch out of its waistcoat-pocket, and looked at it, and then hurried on.

Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and burning with curiosity, she ran across the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.

In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again. The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down a very deep well.

Down, down, down. Would the fall never come to an end!

'I wonder how many miles I've fallen by this time?' she said aloud. 'I must be getting somewhere near the centre of the earth. Let me see: that would be four thousand miles down, I think—' when suddenly, thump! thump! down she came upon a heap of sticks and dry leaves, and the fall was over.

Alice was not a bit hurt, and she jumped up on to her feet in a moment: she looked up, but it was all dark overhead; before her was another long passage, and the White Rabbit was still in sight, hurrying down it. There was not a moment to be lost: away went Alice like the wind, and was just in time to hear it say, as it turned a corner, 'Oh my ears and whiskers, how late it's getting!'

Down the Rabbit Hole: Text-Focused Questions

1. What is Alice's mood at the start of the passage and what do we learn from the phrase: 'what's the use of a book without pictures?'
2. Why do you think Alice isn't surprised by the sight of a white rabbit running and talking to itself?
3. The fact that Alice jumps down the hole without thinking tells us what about her character?
4. How does Alice respond to falling down an impossibly long rabbit hole?
5. What does the phrase "away went Alice like the wind" most likely mean?
6. What do you think the rabbit is late for?
7. What would you do next if you were Alice?

Task Three – Writing

Below is a picture of The Mad Hatter's Tea Party', an event that happens later in the story. Think about the story being full of 'nonsense'.

Use the party invitation template below to plan the event. You should include:

- When and where it will happen
- What games and activities might be included?
- What food and drink might be served?



— You are Invited to a —
PARTY!