Jabberwocky  by Lewis Carroll

'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 a while 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!
Oh 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.
“Jabberwocky” comprehension

Answer the following questions about the Jabberwocky; this will require detective work and sensible guessing! Please write your answers in whole sentences.

1. What was the weather like?
2. Where were the toves?
3. What were the toves doing?
4. Who or what was busy outgribing? (that’s not a typo!)
5. What was the sword like?
6. How did the Jabberwock move?
7. What noise did it make?
8. Do you think the hero walked back or rode back?
9. What do you think frabjous means?
10. What might we say instead of Callooh! Callay!?

“Jabberwocky” language work

For each of these words, say whether you think it is a noun(N), a verb(V) or an adjective (A), and give a reason for your answer!

- wabe
- manxome
- mimsy
- galumphing

Sometimes the sound of a word reminds of you of another word and gives you a clue to its meaning. For each of these words, write down what you think it might mean, and which word(s) it reminds you of.

- Slithy
- Tulgey
- galumphing

Question to bend your brain: Why did I write outgribing rather than outgrabing? Think about what you know about verbs and how they behave and change.