

Jabberwocky first appeared in *Through the Looking Glass* (1871), the sequel to *Alice in Wonderland*. It was written by Charles Dodgson under his famous pseudonym, “Lewis Carroll.” The ultimate satire of heroic narrative poetry in English literature, it foreshadows a major trend in twentieth-century writing in its eerie and evocative use of nonsense words.

Notes on Pronunciation

brillig brill as in brilliant
ig as in igloo

slithy sly-thee

toves rhymes with stoves

gyre g as in get
rhymes with fire

gimble g as in gyre;
rhymes with nimble

wabe rhymes with babe

mimsy rhymes with whimsy

borogoves bore-oh-goves
g as in gus
rhyme s with toves

mome rhymes with home

raths rhymes with baths

outgrabe rhymes with wabe

frumious fru as in frugal

vorpal like snorkel

manxome rhymes with bank some

uffish uff as in huff, or puff

tulgey rhymes with bulgy

frabjous like fabulous + gorgeous

calloo like duluth

callay like delay

Vocabulary

As explained to Alice by Humpty Dumpty in Chapter Six

Brillig means four o’clock in the afternoon — the time you begin broiling things for dinner.

Slithy means lithe and slimy, two meanings packed into one word.

Toves are something like badgers, lizards and corkscrews.

To **gyre** is to go ’round and ’round like a gyroscope.

To **gimble** is to make holes like a gimlet.

The **wabe** is a grass plot around a sundial.

Mimsy is flimsy and miserable.

A **borogove** is a thin shabby-looking bird with its feathers sticking out all around, something like a live mop.

A **rath** is a sort of green pig.

Mome may be short for “from home.”

Outgrabing is something between bellowing and whistling, with a kind of sneeze in the middle.

Jabberwocky

SATB Chorus, a cappella, with
Optional Small Percussion and Movement Suggestions*

Lewis Carroll (1832-1898)

Boyd Bacon

Ranges:

Soprano  Alto  Tenor  Bass 

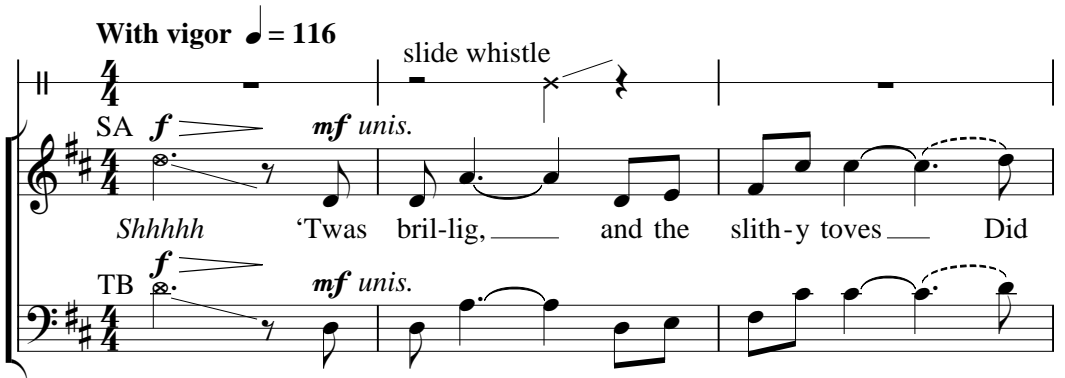
With vigor ♩ = 116

slide whistle

SA *f* *mf unis.*

Shhhhh ‘Twas bril-lig, and the slith-y toves Did

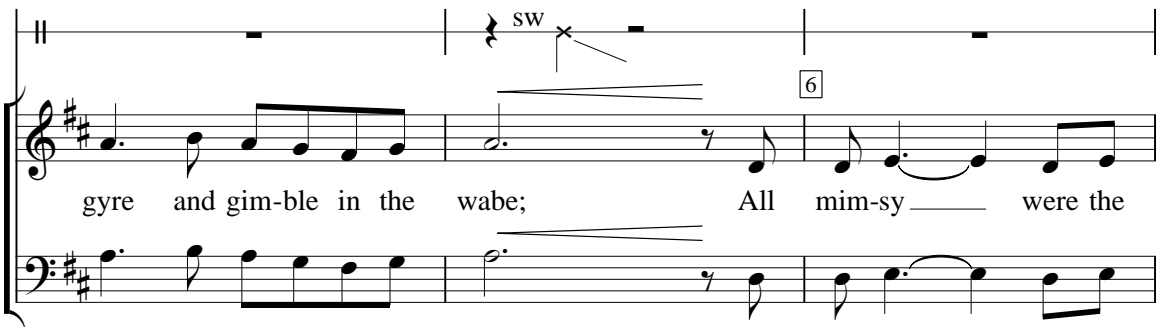
TB *f* *mf unis.*



SW

6

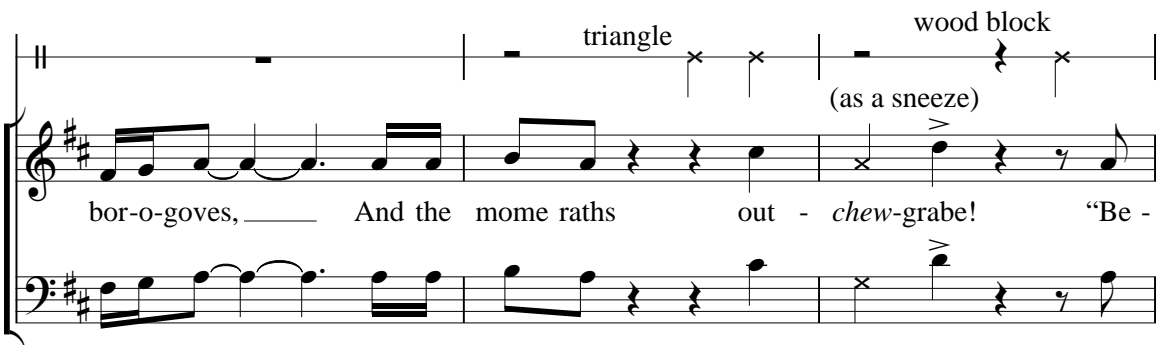
gyre and gim-ble in the wabe; All mim-sy were the



triangle wood block

(as a sneeze)

bor-o-goves, And the mome raths out - chew-grabe! “Be -



Duration: approx. 2:00

*Movement suggestions are on page 8.

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tr wb

10

ware the Jab-ber-wock, my son! The jaws that bite, the claws that catch! Be -

tr

ware the Jub-jub bird, and shun The frum-ious Ban-der-snatch!"

14

mf unis.

(whistle between teeth) He took his vor-pal sword in hand: *mf unis.*

Long

So rest-ed he by the Tum-tum tree, _____

time the manx-ome foe he sought, _____ And

*Sing on multiple pitches.

rit. *sw* *a tempo*

rit. *a tempo*
mp [20]

(make thoughtless faces) And as in uf - fish

a tempo
mp

stood a-while in thought.

mf

thought he stood, The Jab-ber-wock, — with eyes of flame, Came

mf

p *sfz**

wb
tr

whif-ling through the tul-gey wood, And bur-bled as it came! One, two!

p *sfz**

rachet

mf *sfz** *unis. p* [29]

One, two! — And through and through The vor - pal blade went

mf *sfz** *unis. p*

*Sing on multiple pitches.

rachet
wb

ff *unis. p*

snick-er-snack! He left it dead, He

ff *unis. p*

and with its head He

rachet
wb

unis. mf

went ga-lumph-ing back. (*walk triumphantly*) "And

unis. mf

went ga-lumph-ing back.

36

hast thou slain the Jab-ber-wock? Come to my arms, my

f *mp*

beam-ish boy! O frab - jous day! Cal - looh! Cal-lay!" He

f *mp*