



The Hunting of the Snark

by Lewis Carroll

The Hunting of the Snark is a nonsense poem by Lewis Carroll. It was published in 1876. In the poem various characters go hunting an animal called a Snark. Below is the start of the poem.

Fit the First. THE LANDING

"Just the place for a Snark!" the Bellman cried,
As he landed his crew with care;
Supporting each man on the top of the tide
By a finger entwined in his hair.

"Just the place for a Snark! I have said it twice:
That alone should encourage the crew.
Just the place for a Snark! I have said it thrice:
What I tell you three times is true."

The crew was complete: it included a Boots—
A maker of Bonnets and Hoods—
A Barrister, brought to arrange their disputes—
And a Broker, to value their goods.

A Billiard-marker, whose skill was immense,
Might perhaps have won more than his share—
But a Banker, engaged at enormous expense,
Had the whole of their cash in his care.

There was also a Beaver, that paced on the deck,
Or would sit making lace in the bow:
And had often (the Bellman said) saved them from wreck,
Though none of the sailors knew how.

There was one who was famed for the number of things
He forgot when he entered the ship:
His umbrella, his watch, all his jewels and rings,
And the clothes he had bought for the trip.

He had forty-two boxes, all carefully packed,
With his name painted clearly on each:
But, since he omitted to mention the fact,
They were all left behind on the beach.

The loss of his clothes hardly mattered, because
He had seven coats on when he came,
With three pairs of boots—but the worst of it was,
He had wholly forgotten his name.

He would answer to "Hi!" or to any loud cry,
Such as "Fry me!" or "Fritter my wig!"
To "What-you-may-call-um!" or "What-was-his-name!"
But especially "Thing-um-a-jig!"

While, for those who preferred a more forcible word,
He had different names from these:
His intimate friends called him "Candle-ends,"
And his enemies "Toasted-cheese."

"His form is ungainly—his intellect small—"
(So the Bellman would often remark)
"But his courage is perfect! And that, after all,
Is the thing that one needs with a Snark."

He would joke with hyænas, returning their stare
With an impudent wag of the head:
And he once went a walk, paw-in-paw, with a bear,
"Just to keep up its spirits," he said.

He came as a Baker: but owned, when too late—
And it drove the poor Bellman half-mad—
He could only bake Bridecake—for which, I may state,
No materials were to be had.

The last of the crew needs especial remark,
Though he looked an incredible dunce:
He had just one idea—but, that one being "Snark,"
The good Bellman engaged him at once.

He came as a Butcher: but gravely declared,
When the ship had been sailing a week,
He could only kill Beavers. The Bellman looked scared,
And was almost too frightened to speak:



The Baker



The Barrister



The Bellman



The Banker

The Hunting of the Snark: Do You Understand?

Part I. Character Match

Almost all of Lewis Carroll's characters in *The Hunting of the Snark* have names that describe their occupations. Only one name describes the actual character. Some of the occupations are out-dated and no longer exist. Match the character's name with his description.



- | | | |
|-----------|------------------|---|
| 1. _____ | Bellman | A. makes hats, caps, and other headgear |
| 2. _____ | Boots | B. cares for other people's money |
| 3. _____ | Bonnet and Hoods | C. score keeper in a game |
| 4. _____ | Barrister | D. makes bread and cakes for sale |
| 5. _____ | Broker | E. polishes shoes |
| 6. _____ | Billiard-marker | F. decides how much property is worth |
| 7. _____ | Banker | G. cuts up meat for sale |
| 8. _____ | Beaver | H. a town crier who makes announcements |
| 9. _____ | Baker | I. a furry mammal |
| 10. _____ | Butcher | J. a lawyer |

Part II. Short Answer

Answer each question below.

- What do you think a Snark is? _____
- What was one thing the Baker forgot? _____
- Who was the captain of the ship? _____
- Who made lace? _____
- What was the only thing the Butcher could kill? _____

Name: _____

Vocabulary in The Hunting of the Snark

I. Vocabulary Match

Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B.

Column A

1. _____ entwined
2. _____ thrice
3. _____ immense
4. _____ engaged
5. _____ omitted
6. _____ forcible
7. _____ ungainly
8. _____ impudent
9. _____ especial
10. _____ dunce

Column B

- A. very large
- B. leave out or forget
- C. twisted or wrapped
- D. rude or disrespectful
- E. three times
- F. clumsy or awkward
- G. very important or significant
- H. hired or employed
- I. a stupid person
- J. strong



II. Antonyms

An antonym is a word that means the opposite of another word.

Example: hot is an antonym for cold.

Write an antonym in the blank for each word below from *The Hunting of the Snark*.

1. disputes _____
2. enormous _____
3. famed _____
4. intimate _____
5. gravely _____

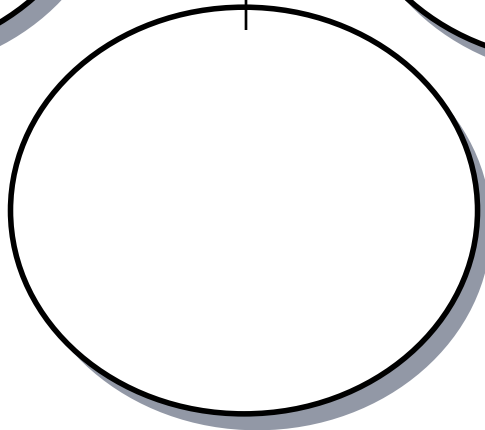
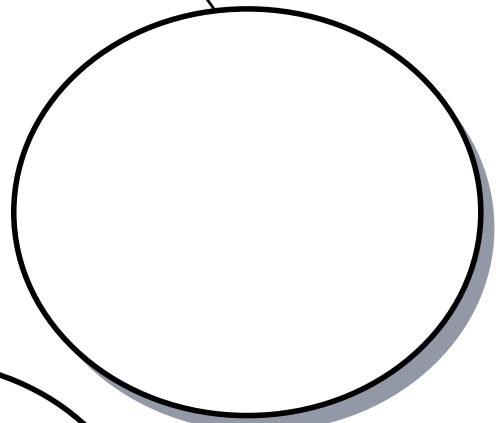
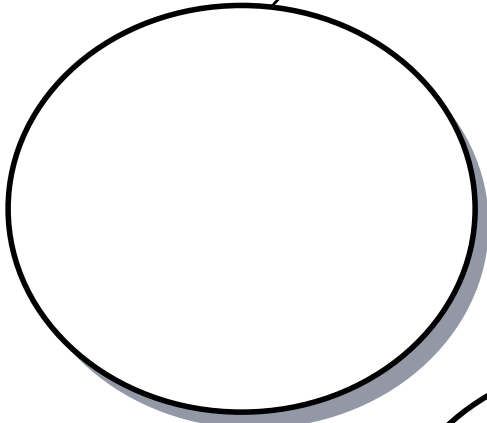
Name: _____



Supporting Evidence: The Hunting of the Snark

Below is one of the main ideas of the passage. Write three quotations from the passage that support this main idea.

The Baker had
a bad memory.



Name: _____

The Hunting of the Snark



Add Your Own Characters



In Carroll's *The Hunting of the Snark* all of the characters have names that start with the letter *B*. These names mostly describe their occupation or job. Create two characters of your own who might have also gone snark hunting with the crew. What are their names? What are their jobs or purpose? What are their character traits that make them important to the crew? You may write their descriptions in paragraph form or as part of the poem.

Name: _____



The Hunting of the Snark

Word Search



Circle each word from the list in the puzzle.
The words can go in any direction.



BAKER
BANKER

BARRISTER
BEAVER

BELLMAN
BILLIARD

BONNET
BOOTS

CREW
SNARK



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Answer each question below.

- What do you think a Snark is?
- What was one thing the Baker forgot?
- Who was the captain of the ship?
- Who made lace?
- What was the only thing the Butcher could kill?

**Student's answers may vary.
Example of correct answers.**

An animal

His name

Bellman

The Beaver

Beavers

Vocabulary in The Hunting of the Snark

I. Vocabulary Match

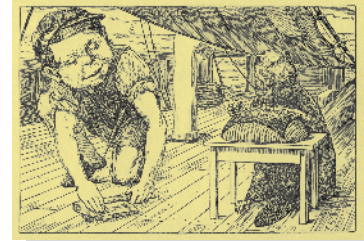
Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B.

Column A

1. **C** entwined
2. **E** thrice
3. **A** immense
4. **H** engaged
5. **B** omitted
6. **J** forcible
7. **F** ungainly
8. **D** impudent
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Column B

- A. very large
- B. leave out or forget
- C. twisted or wrapped
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Example: hot is an antonym for cold.

Write an antonym in the blank for each word below from *The Hunting of the Snark*.

Student's answers may vary. Example of correct answers:

1. disputes **agreements**
2. enormous **tiny**
3. famed **unknown**
4. intimate **distant**
5. gravely **lightly**



Supporting Evidence: The Hunting of the Snark

Below is one of the main ideas of the passage. Write three quotations from the passage that support this main idea.

The Baker had
a bad memory.

Student's answers may vary. Example of correct answers:

“...famed for the
number of things/
He forgot when he
entered the ship”

“He had wholly
forgotten his name.”

“But, since he omitted
to mention the fact,
/They were all left
behind on the beach.”

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