

Giulia Niccolai

**HUMPTY  
DUMPTY**

geiger







# Humpty Dumpty

for Roberta



A term whose meaning is recorded under the entry of some other term is (if it seems to require separate entry at its own alphabetical place) entered thus:

Desdemona, n.      See Othello

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary  
(Explanatory notes)

The Red Queen shook her head:  
« You may call it **nonsense**  
if you like », she said,  
« but **I've** heard nonsense,  
compared with which  
that would be as sensible  
as a **dictionary!** »



d i c t i o n a r y

i

n

o

c

y

a

i

d

t

o

r

i

n

c

r

d

i

o

y

r y

a r y

n a r y a w o r d

n

o

sense

sense

sense

sense

sense

sense

sense

sense

sense

o

n

The Duchess:  
« Take care of the sense  
and the words  
will take care  
of themselves ».

s e n s e s

do

u

n

d!

« He might bite »

b  
m i g h t  
t  
e

« Cats are very like bats ».

b

a t s

c

The White Rabbit:

«Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be too late!»

oh dear! oh dear! I shall be too late!

I shall be too

I shall be too

oh dear! oh dear! I shall be too late!

I shall be too!

She took down  
**a jar**  
from one  
of the shelves  
as she passed:  
it was labeled  
« ORANGE MARMALADE »,  
but  
to her great  
disappointment  
it was empty.



a jar a jar a jar a jar  
a jar a jar a jar a jar  
a jar a jar a jar a jar  
a jar a jar a jar a jar  
a jar a jar a jar a jar  
a jar a jar a jar a jar  
a jar a jar a jar a jar  
a jar a jar a jar a jar  
a jar a jar a jar ajar

Vocatives:

Oysters!

Mouse!

O sister!

O Muse!

re-usable

# A CAUCUS—RACE AND A LONG TALE

tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tale  
tail

Fury said to  
 a mouse, That  
 he met  
 in the  
 house,  
 'Let us  
 both go  
 to law:  
 I will  
 prosecute  
 you.—  
 Come, I'll  
 take no  
 denial;  
 We must  
 have a  
 trial:  
 For  
 really  
 this  
 morning  
 I've  
 nothing  
 to do.'  
 Said the  
 mouse to  
 the cur,  
 'Such a  
 trial,  
 dear sir,  
 With no  
 jury or  
 judge,  
 would be  
 wasting  
 our breath.'  
 'I'll be  
 judge,  
 I'll be  
 jury.'  
 Said  
 cunning  
 old Fury:  
 'I'll try  
 the whole  
 cause,  
 and  
 condemn  
 you  
 to  
 death.'

« All right »,  
said the Cat;  
and this time  
it vanished  
quite syowly,  
beginning  
with  
the end  
of  
the  
tail...

**tail off**

The table was a large one

The table was a large





පාඨමාලාව

The Queen bawled out  
« He's **murdering**  
the time! »

« And ever since that, »  
the Hatter went on  
in a mournful tone,  
« he won't do a thing  
I ask!

It's always

**six**

**o' clock**

**now .»**

*Kiln<sup>®</sup>*

**rose tree**

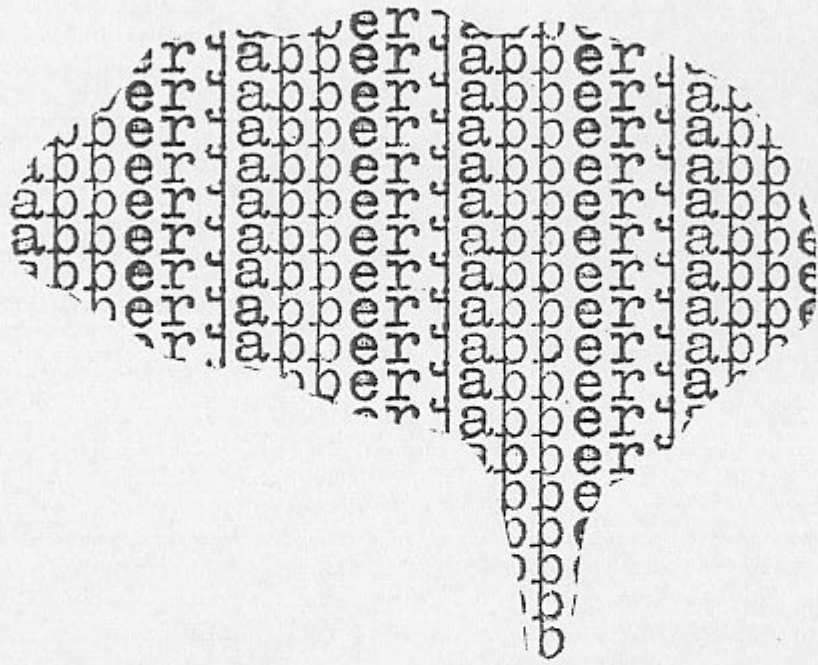
**tree rose**

« backward »

**d r a w k c a b**

bottom

YSDOL



*b* *o* *o*  
*b* *o* *unce* *o*



h n m p t y  
d u m p t y

impermeability

uni  orn

**And**

**Lewis**

**I**

**Carroll**

**End**

## INDEX

- 7 Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary. 1961 (Thin paper edition). (Explanatory Notes)
- 8 The Red Queen, p. 207. "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass" Edited by Martin Gardner. Penguin Editions. All following quotes, *ibid.*
- 9 Dictionary.
- 10 Nonsense.
- 11 The Duchess, p. 121.
- 12 Senses do sound!
- 13 He might bite, p. 121.
- 14 Cats are very like bats, p. 28.
- 15 The White Rabbit, p. 25.
- 16 She took down a jar..., p. 27.
- 17 Ajar.
- 18 Vocatives: p. 41 and p. 234.
- 19 Yet you balanced an eel on the end of your nose, p. 71,
- 20 A Caucus-Race and a Long Tale, p. 45.
- 21 A Caucus-Race and a Long Tail
- 22 "All right", said the Cat.. p. 90.
- 23 To tail off, p. 90.
- 24 The table was a large one, p. 93.
- 25 The Cheshire Cat's grin, p. 83.

- 26 The Queen bawled out... p. 99.
- 27 To kill time, p. 99.
- 28 A large rose tree, p. 105.
- 29 Backward. (Through the Looking Glass), p. 180.
- 30 Topsy-turvy.
- 31 Jabberwocky, p. 191.
- 32 To bounce, p. 241.
- 33 Humpty Dumpty, p. 261.
- 34 Impenetrability. "When I make a word do a lot of work like that," said Humpty Dumpty, "I always pay it extra". p. 270.
- 35 Unicorn, p. 277.
- 36 ALICE.

geiger « poesia » numero 1

design: giovanni aneschi  
studio tipografico, popolo 3, roma  
dicembre 1969

© 1969 edizioni geiger - torino  
made in italy

Giulia Niccolai was born in Milano (Italy), in 1934, of an American mother and Italian father. Her first novel, **Il Grande Angolo**, was published by Feltrinelli in 1966, and she is now finishing a second one, **King-Clown** (written in Italian). She lives and works in Rome. In **Humpty Dumpty**, Giulia Niccolai interprets visually Lewis Carroll's language, following the techniques of concrete poetry, of which the author, in **Alice**, with the **Mouse's Tail**, his fragmentation of verse and **nonsense**, is one of the forefathers.