

Random

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From http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humpty_Dumpty, via Sue Tolman:

In Through the Looking-Glass [edit]

Humpty appears in Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass* (1872), where he discusses semantics and pragmatics with Alice.^[21]

"I don't know what you mean by 'glory,'" Alice said.

Humpty Dumpty smiled contemptuously. "Of course you don't—till I tell you. I meant 'there's a nice knock-down argument for you!'"

"But 'glory' doesn't mean 'a nice knock-down argument'," Alice objected.

"When *I* use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less."

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you *can* make words mean so many different things."

"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be master—that's all."

Alice was too much puzzled to say anything, so after a minute Humpty Dumpty began again. "They've a temper, some of them—particularly verbs, they're the proudest—adjectives you can do anything with, but not verbs—however, *I* can manage the whole lot! Impenetrability! That's what *I* say!"^[22]



Humpty Dumpty and Alice. ↗
From *Through the Looking-Glass*. Illustration by John Tenniel.