

## The Thing Explainer!

### *Section I. Quotations*

1. [The First Amendment - Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.]
2. ["Stairway to Heaven" - "If there's a bustle in your hedgerow, Don't be alarmed now, It's just a spring clean for the May queen."]
3. [Shylock from the Merchant of Venice - "I am a Jew. Hath not a Jew eyes? hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? if you tickle us, do we not laugh? if you poison us, do we not die? and if you wrong us, shall we not revenge?"]
4. [Hickory dickory dock, the mouse ran up the clock]
5. ["What is your major malfunction, numbnuts?" Gunnery Sergeant Hartman from Full Metal Jacket]
6. [Psalm 23 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.]
7. [Daffy Duck or Sylvester the Cat - "Suffering Succotash"]
8. [Major General's Song from the Pirates of Penzance - "I'm very good at integral and differential calculus; I know the scientific names of beings animalculous: In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral, I am the very model of a modern Major-General."]
9. [Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson's character) in Taken - "If you are looking for ransom, I can tell you I don't have money. But what I do have are a very particular set of skills, skills I have acquired over a very long career. Skills that make me a nightmare for people like you."]

10. [First verse of “The Mountains” - O, proudly rise the monarchs of our mountain land, With their kingly forest robes, to the sky, Where Alma Mater dwelleth with her chosen band, And the peaceful river floweth gently by.]

11. [The opening stanza of “Jabberwocky,” using Humpty Dumpty’s definitions for the nonsense words. From “Through the Looking-Glass”

Twas brillig, and the slithy toves

Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:

All mimsy were the borogoves,

And the mome raths outgrabe.

"That's enough to begin with", Humpty Dumpty interrupted: "there are plenty of hard words there. '*Brillig*' means four o'clock in the afternoon--the time when you begin *broiling* things for dinner."

"That'll do very well", said Alice: "and '*slithy*'?"

"Well, '*slithy*' means 'lithe and slimy'. 'Lithe' is the same as 'active'. You see it's like a portmanteau--there are two meanings packed up into one word."

I see it now", Alice remarked thoughtfully: "and what are '*toves*'?"

"Well, '*toves*' are something like badgers--they're something like lizards--and they're something like corkscrews."

"They must be very curious creatures."

"They are that", said Humpty Dumpty: "also they make their nests under sun-dials--also they live on cheese."

"And what's to '*gyre*' and to '*gimble*'?"

"To '*gyre*' is to go round and round like a gyroscope. To '*gimble*' is to make holes like a gimlet."

"And '*the wabe*' is the grass plot round a sun-dial, I suppose?" said Alice, surprised at her own ingenuity.

"Of course it is. It's called '*wabe*', you know, because it goes a long way before it, and a long way behind it--"

"And a long way beyond it on each side", Alice added.

"Exactly so. Well then, '*mimsy*' is 'flimsy and miserable' (there's another portmanteau for you). And a '*borogove*' is a thin shabby-looking bird with its feathers sticking out all round--something like a live mop."

"And then '*mome raths*'?" said Alice. "If I'm not giving you too much trouble."

"Well a '*rath*' is a sort of green pig, but '*mome*' I'm not certain about. I think it's sort for 'from home'--meaning that they'd lost their way, you know."

"And what does '*outgrabe*' mean?"

"Well, '*outgribing*' is something between bellowing and whistling, with a kind of sneeze in the middle: however, you'll hear it done, maybe--down in the wood yonder--and when you've once heard it, you'll be *quite* content. Who's been repeating all that hard stuff to you?"

**"I read it in a book", said Alice.]**

**12. [The Big Lebowski - "The Dude abides"]**

**13. [Kepler's First Law of Planetary Motion]**

**14. [Queen - "Bohemian Rhapsody" - "Scaramouche! Scaramouche! Will you do the fandango?"]**

**15. [Churchill's "We shall fight on the beaches speech" "We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender"]**

**16. [Opening of the song "Greased Lightning" Well this car could be systematic Hydromatic Ultramatic Why it could be Greased Lightning!]**

**17. [The Frank Ferry quote on the main trivia website "It is a tremendous emotional experience. We don't deal in minutia, which may be defined as useless facts with no emotional value. Trivia concerns something you know but can't quite remember."]**

**18. ["To Infinity and beyond! - Buzz Lightyear from Toy Story]**

**19. [The Silence of the Lambs Hannibal Lector "A census taker once tried to test me. I ate his liver with some fava beans and a nice chianti."]**

**20. [Newton's Third Law of Motion]**

*Section II. Wikipedia paragraphs Thing-Explained*

**21. [Philosophy]**

**22. [[The clitoris]**

**23.[The Starry Night]**

**24. [Wimbledon]**

**25. [Angelina Jolie]**

**26.[Archipelago]**

**27. [United States Department of Transportation]**

**28. [Lithium - ion battery]**

**29. [Flute]**

**30. [Oven]**

*Section III. Plain Old Thing-Explaining*

31. [**a Segway**]
32. [**a wombat**]
33. [**Parmesan cheese**]
34. [**Plasma**]
35. [**Tacos**]
36. [**Oxford comma**]
37. [**Absolute Zero**]
38. [**The Green Bay Packers**]
39. [**C-SPAN**]
40. [**Scotch Whiskey**]