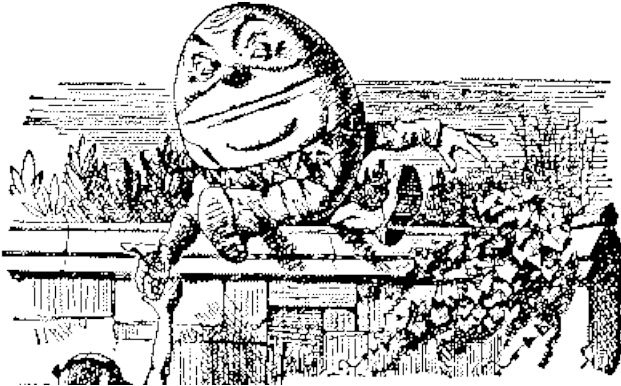


## Socratic Seminar Prompt #5 – Through the Looking Glass:

Explore the ways in which Carroll continues to explore the nature of words (those with general meaning) and names (proper nouns) in our reading for today's seminar, and especially in the *Humpty Dumpty* chapter (Chapter 6).

*Note:* Carroll develops an inverse in the *Humpty Dumpty* chapter in which common words are more significant than proper nouns. How? Why? What theme is Carroll exploring here?



"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 of them! Impenetrability! That's what *I* say!"

*Through the Looking Glass, Ch. VI*