## A Brief Exercise on Form

Ideas are wonderful things, but in and of themselves they have little impact, unless married to the proper form. This little exercise comes from Stanley Fish in his work *How to Write a Sentence*. The focus is not on content but on form.

Lewis Carrol in his 1871 classic *Through the Looking Glass, and What Alice Found There* has his central character Alice encounter this cryptic poem among her adventures. To read it she must observe it through a mirror to decode its cipher. After decoding, there is recognition but still confusion.

The puzzle for you is to first recognize that Carrol in this verse is employing a very recognizable structure even though the content is gibberish at first read. Your task is to rewrite this first stanza as a sensical sentence by replacing all of the nonsense words with "good English words in a way that leads to a meaningful sentence."

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves Did gyre and gimble in the wabe: All mimsy were the borogoves, And the mome raths outgrabe.

