Making Sense of Nonsense

What’s fun about reading and writing poems is that you play with words in unusual ways.

The poem to the right written by Lewis Carroll, the author of Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, contains lots of nonsense words but you still can understand what happens in the poem, right?

Jabberwocky

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

“Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!”

He took his vorpal sword in hand:
Long time the manxome foe he sought--
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,
And stood a while in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffling through the tulgey wood,
And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back.

“And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
Oh frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!”
He chortled in his joy.

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

There are _______ words that Lewis Carroll made up in the Jabberwocky.

Can you find them all? Underline the nonsense words.

Check your answers with the answer sheet!
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- Lewis Carroll

There are 36 words that Lewis Carroll made up in the Jabberwocky.
(or 37 if "snicker-snack" is counted as 2 words)

Can you find them all? Underline the nonsense words.
If you’re unsure look in a dictionary.