



Limericks

A limerick is a humorous poem of five lines. It is arranged in the following pattern.

Line One a

Line Two a

Line Three..... b

Line Four b

Line Five a

Here is a limerick written by Edward Lear.



There was an Old Man with a beard,
Who said, "It is just as I feared!
Two owls and a hen,
Four larks and a wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard."

Edward Lear, a famous poet, made the limerick popular in the early years of the 19th century. Limericks are funny, witty and often silly. They have been used to criticize and make fun of politicians and famous people.

Limericks do have a definite rhythm pattern. Be sure to share plenty of limericks with students so they can feel the rhythm and hear the rhyming words.

Plan a Limerick Hunt in the resource center (Library) with your students. They are to look through poetry books to find limericks. The poems are to be recorded, memorized and acted out by the students. Limericks could also be collected and written in books for the classroom.



Limericks

Share any of the following limericks with your class so they may hear the rhythm and rhyming words. Record them on the chalkboard, chart paper or an overhead.

There once was a little girl named Lisa, Who loved eating pepperoni and cheese pizza. Every day she would munch, On pizza for lunch. Until through the door she couldn't squeez-a	There once was a sad car named Rusty. Who sat in a barn getting dusty. Once he was new, Over roads he flew Now he's dingy and smells very musty.
There once was a family of owls. For mice, father was always on the prowl, Mother brewed a mouse stew. The owlets said, "Whoo-whoo Tomorrow night can we have fowl?"	There once was a clown named Bobo. Who was always dressed like a hobo. He walked on a wire, While eating some fire. Then played a cool song on an oboe.
There once was a Daffodil named Dilly Who always acted very silly He would stand tall And try to call His friends with his trumpet so frilly	There once was a crocodile named Blooze Who spent most of his time having a snooze One day by surprise He was shot at sunrise And now your teacher is wearing him as shoes!
There once was a unicorn named Horace Who sang in the unicorn chorus. When he sang songs His horn grew so long That he couldn't walk through the forest.	There once was a llama named Mack, Who was carrying a big, heavy pack. How he grunted and groaned, My aching back he moaned! And plopped down on the mountain track.



Let's Work With Limericks

A limerick is a humorous poem. They are fun to read and write.

Remember:

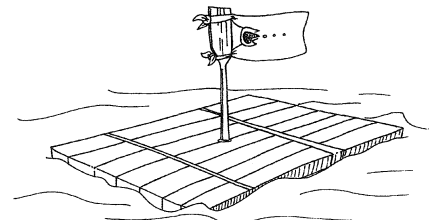
1. A limerick has five lines.
2. Lines one, two and five rhyme.
3. Line five refers to line one.
4. Lines three and four rhyme.
5. Lines three and four are shorter.
6. There is a definite rhythm pattern.
7. A limerick usually starts with "There once was" or "There was".

Complete the following limericks with rhyming words.

There once was a little, old man named _____,
Who loved to eat foods that were _____,
He ate strawberries for _____,
And cherries by the _____,
Till he was so sick he went to _____.



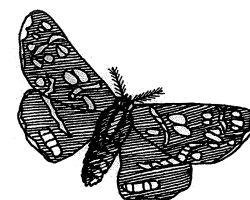
There once was a prisoner named _____,
He escaped on a raft out to _____,
The waters got _____,
His journey was _____,
But alas, he was finally _____.



There once was a spider named _____,
Whose appearance looked terribly _____,
All the girl spiders would _____,
When Harry came _____,
That's why Harry would never _____.



There once was a moth named _____,
Who was afraid of the _____,
He clung to a tree _____,
Where no one could see _____,
And waited for the dark of the _____.





Let's Write a Limerick

1. Choose one of the beginning lines that you like the best.

There once was a witch named Tilly,
There once was a bunny named Sunny,
There was a man who lived in a shack,
There once was a bullfrog named Matt,
There once was a squid named Sid,
There once was a creature named Jars,
There once was a bug named Sam,
There once was a beaver named Fred,
There was an old lady in town,

2. Write your beginning line here.

3. Make a list of words that rhyme with the last word in your first line.

4. Think of a second line. It must rhyme with line one. Write it here.

5. Write two short sentences that describe the topic. Make sure they rhyme.



6. Write the last line. It must rhyme with line one and two. Check your list of rhyming words.

7. Once you have completed your limerick copy it on the lines below and illustrate it.

My Limerick

Picture



Writing a Limerick

Use these steps to help you write your own limerick.

Step 1: Choose the name of a person, place or thing that you want your limerick to be about. Write the name on the line.

Step 2: Make up your first line using the word that you choose. Write it on the line.

Step 3: Brainstorm for words that rhyme with the last word of sentence one. Record them on the lines provided.

Step 4: Create your second line. Make sure it rhymes with line one. Write it on the line.

Step 5: Think of two short sentences that rhyme. They must describe the topic. Write them on the line.

Step 6: Create your last line. It must rhyme with lines one and two. Write it on the line.

Step 7: Copy your limerick neatly on a sheet of paper and illustrate it.