

Limerick

Limericks are a form of poetry named
after a town in Ireland called
Limerick.

*These poems have a reputation for being funny or
silly.*

Poetry - Limericks



The limerick takes
its name from the
city of Limerick,
Ireland, although
no one really knows
how or where the
form originated
from.

Limerick

A limerick is a five line poem written
in pattern A-A-B-B-A.

Lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme.

Lines 3 and 4 rhyme.



Limerick

There once was a man dressed in red,
With a beard and white hair on his head
But he had a big *belly*
That shook just like *jelly*
And got him stuck in a chimney, it's said.

What (or who) is this limerick about?
Do you notice the A-A-B-B-A rhyming pattern?

Limerick

There was a small maiden name Maggie
 Whose dog was enormous and shaggy,
 The front end of him
 Looked vicious and grim-
 But the tail end was friendly and waggy.



*Lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme.
 Lines 3 and 4 rhyme.*

There once was a student in school
 Who would not conform to the rule.
 He used all his **time**
 To write funny **rhyme**
 And limericks he used as his tool.

We are from Seaford Middle School
Which makes us very very cool.
We have Seaford pride
Which we dare not hide
And Seaford Vikings really rule!



8 We are from Seaford Middle School
8 Which makes us very very cool.
5 We have Seaford **pride**
5 Which we dare not **hide**
8 And Seaford Vikings really rule!



Limericks

The limerick is a humorous, nonsense verse consisting of a triplet and a couplet, a five line poem.

Covering a wide range of subjects, the first line of a limerick often begins with

“There once was... or

“There was a.... and ends with the name of a person.

A Line 1 – 8 syllables

A Line 2 – 8 syllables

B Line 3 – 5 syllables

B Line 4 – 5 syllables

A Line 5 – 8 syllables



Helpful Tip

Start by making a
t-chart!

-at words	-un words
Cat	Run
Hat	Fun
Sat	Won
Mat	Pun
Rat	Sun
Fat	

Then, go one line at a time. Make sure
that the poem actually makes sense as you
go! *It should tell a silly little story.*

There once lived a pitiful **cat**

Who grew up abnormally **fat**.

He attempted to **run**

But that wasn't **fun**.

So instead sleeps all day on his **mat**.

Limerick

Now, you try! Make sure that...

Lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme.

Lines 3 and 4 rhyme.

Trouble getting started?
Make a t-chart of rhyming words.

