

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Feeling the Rhythm

How are stressed and unstressed syllables used in writing limericks?

1 Read this limerick and notice the stressed and the unstressed syllables:

There once was a girl named Maureen

Who wished she were skinny and lean

But she loved pizza pie,

Pastrami on rye

And ate till her plate was clean.

2 Read the limericks on page 35 to yourself and then out loud. Mark the stressed and unstressed syllables. Remember, the long lines should have three stressed syllables; the short lines should have two.

There once was a boy named Drew

On candy he'd chomp and he'd chew

To brush he forgot

His teeth started to rot

And now he just has a few.

A lady who loved the trombone

Was lucky she lived all alone.

When she started to play,

Her friends stayed away

And left her to sputter and moan.

There once was a poodle name Rose

Who liked to dance on her toes.

She twirled and she spun,

Had barrels of fun,

Until she fell on her nose.

# Drafting Your Limerick

Now it's your turn to write a limerick.

**1** If you need help getting started, you might try one of these opening lines:  
*There once was a boy/girl named \_\_\_\_\_, or There once was a boy/girl from \_\_\_\_\_.*

**2** Once you have your first line, brainstorm a few rhyming words for the next line.

**3** Next, look over your list of words that rhyme and see how you can make some of them part of your poem. Remember, a limerick is really a very short story, so anything you include must make sense and help tell that story. In other words, don't use a line simply because it rhymes with another line.

## Brainstormed Rhyming Words

*There once was a boy/girl named \_\_\_\_\_*


## Limerick (continued)

## Brainstormed Rhyming Words

*There once was a boy/girl from \_\_\_\_\_*


**4** Now invent your own first line and write a limerick to go with it!
