

Name:

Date:.....

Limericks

A limerick is a short and funny poem. Read the following examples carefully, including examples by the English poet, 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

There was an Old Man with a nose,
Who said, "If you choose to suppose,
That my nose is too long,
You are certainly wrong."
That remarkable man with a nose.

Edward Lear

There was an old man in a tree,
Whose whiskers were lovely to see;
But the birds of the air,
Pluck'd them perfectly bare,
To make themselves nests on that tree.

Edward Lear

There was a young schoolboy of Rye,
Who was baked by mistake in a pie.
To his mother's disgust
He emerged through the crust,
And exclaimed, with a yawn,
"Where am I?"

There was a Young Lady whose bonnet,
Came untied when the birds sate upon
it;
But she said: 'I don't care!
All the birds in the air
Are welcome to sit on my bonnet!'

Edward Lear

There was a young lady from Leeds
Who swallowed a package of seeds.
Now this sorry young lass
Is quite covered in grass,
But has all the tomatoes she needs.



Discuss the following questions with a partner.



1. Which limerick is your favourite? Why?

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.....

2. What similarities are there in each of the limericks and how they are written?

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.....

3. Write your own definition of a limerick in no more than ten words.

.....

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4. Find and underline the rhyming words in each of the limericks.

.....

5. Which lines in each of the limericks rhyme? Write the rhyming pattern.

.....

6. Count the syllables in each of the lines. Is there a pattern? Write it below.

.....

Complete the limericks by choosing the correct rhyming words from the box below.

There was an Old Man with a beard,
 Who said, "It is just as I feared!—
 Two Owls and a ,
 four Larks and a ,
 Have all built their nests in my beard.



Edward Lear

There was an Old Man with a beard,
 Who said, "If you choose to suppose,
 That my nose is too ,
 You are certainly ,
 That remarkable man with a nose.

Edward Lear

There was an old man in a tree,
 Whose whiskers were lovely to see;
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Edward Lear

There was a young lady from Leeds
 Who swallowed a package of seeds.
 Now this sorry young
 Is quite covered in ,
 But has all the tomatoes she needs.



long	disgust	hen	wrong
lass	air	crust	air
care	wren	grass	bare

Name: Date:.....

Write your own limericks using the guide to help you.



A First line - 8 syllables

There was a from

A Second line - 8 syllables

.....

B Third line - 5 syllables

.....

B Fourth line - 5 syllables

.....

A Final line - 8 syllables

.....



Name: Date:.....

Write your own limericks using the guide to help you.



A First line - 8 syllables

There was acalled
.....

A Second line - 8 syllables

.....

B Third line - 5 syllables

.....

B Fourth line - 5 syllables

.....

A Final line - 8 syllables

.....

Suggested answers

1. Which limerick is your favourite? Why?
Accept answers with supporting reasons.
2. What similarities are there in each of the limericks and how they are written?
They are five lines each. Their content is silly or nonsense. They rhyme and have a rhythm.
3. Write your own definition of a limerick in no more than ten words.
Accept suitable answers.
4. Find and underline the rhyming words in each of the limericks.
Check rhyming words are underlined.
5. Which lines in each of the limericks rhyme? Write the rhyming pattern.
The rhyme scheme is AABBA which means the first, second and final line rhymes while the third and fourth lines rhyme.
6. Count the syllables in each of the lines. Is there a pattern? Write it below.
The general syllable pattern is eight syllables on lines 1, 2 and 5, with two pairs of five syllables on lines 3 and 4.