

LIMERICKS

A limerick is a five-line poem written with one couplet and one triplet. If a couplet were a two-line rhymed poem, then a triplet would be a three-line rhymed poem.

- Limericks are nonsense verse.
- They have five lines.
- They have a rhyme scheme of A, A, B, B, A (lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme; lines 3 and 4 rhyme).
- The meter is 3, 3, 2, 2, 3.
- The syllabification is 8, 8, 5, 5, 8.

Limericks are meant to be funny. They often contain hyperbole, onomatopoeia, idioms, puns, and other figurative devices. The last line of a good limerick contains the PUNCH LINE or “heart of the joke.” As you work with limericks, remember to have pun, I mean FUN! Say the following limericks out loud and clap to the rhythm.

EXAMPLE

A flea and a fly in a flue
Were caught, so what could they do?
Said the fly, “Let us flee.”
“Let us fly,” said the flea.
So they flew through a flaw in the flue.

—Anonymous

PRACTICE

There was a new teacher from _____

Who _____

The Principal came in

And said _____

Then _____