

Name _____

Date _____

Limericks

Limericks are very structured poems and are often witty or humorous. They have five lines, the last words of lines one, two, and five rhyme and the last words of lines three and four rhyme. The rhythm of the limerick is also very strict and can be broken down as follows. Notice how each line is stressed and unstressed in specific places.

da-Dum da-da-Dum da-da-Dum
da-Dum da-da-Dum da-da-Dum
da-Dum da-da-Dum
da-Dum da-da-Dum
da-Dum da-da-Dum da-da-Dum



Put It To Use:

Let us write a limerick with the first line as 'He was an unusual boy.'

Step 1: Think It Through

Brainstorm some ideas on why this boy is unusual. Where did he come from? What does he do? What does he say? What does he wear?

Brainstorms:

Walks backwards, wears his underwear on the outside of his pants, talks with his eyes closed, does everything opposite, sleeps in his toy box, brushes his teeth with a pencil

Step 2: Write Your Poem

Now remembering our specific rhyme and rhythm pattern, write your poem with the given first line.

He was an unusual boy
First born in the deep Illinois.
He walked turned around
His laugh had no sound
And slept in the box with his toys.

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Try Your Hand at a Limerick

Now it is your turn to give it a shot!

Challenge:

Write a limerick with the first line as 'There once was a very old dog.'

Step 1: Brainstorm

Jot down ideas about this dog. Examples are what he looked like, what he liked to do, or what happened to him.

Brainstorm Box



Step 2: Write Your Poem

Now remembering our specific rhyme and rhythm pattern, write your poem with the given first line.