

LIMERICKS

Limericks are five-line poems. They are usually intended to be funny. All limericks follow a pattern:

The first, second and fifth lines have the same rhyme and the same number of syllables (usually eight).

The third and fourth lines have the rhyme and the same number of syllables (usually six).

The rhyme pattern is AABBA.

It is easy to write a limerick. Think of something you would like to write a limerick about. Limericks are funny, so your topic can be silly. Maybe you would like to write about your hometown (many limericks start "There once was a man from _____" or "There once was a girl from _____"). Maybe you would like to write about someone you know.

Now think of at least two other words that rhyme with your topic. For example, if your subject is "Japan", your rhyming words could be "man" and "ran".

The first two lines of a limerick introduce the character or topic.

There once was a boy from Japan
Who wanted to look like a man

The third and fourth lines introduce a conflict, or a kind of problem, and rhyme with each other.

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The last line is the end of the poem, so it should solve the problem, maybe in a funny way.

And they all laughed at him til he ran.

Practice writing a limerick.

A. _____

A. _____

B. _____

B. _____

A. _____