Writing Limericks For Fun

What is a Limerick?

Limericks are five line verses with a special rhyming pattern and beat.
They are short, funny, silly poems about a person or place.
These nonsensical poems were first composed in the 1700's by two Irish poets known as the Maigue Poets. They lived in County Limerick in Ireland beside the River Maigue.
That's how these poems got their name.

Edward Lear, an English poet and artist, first made limericks popular when he published his 'Book of Nonsense' in 1846. Here's one of Edward Lear's limericks.

There was on old man of Kildare
Who climbed into a very old chair;
When he said, — "Here I stays, —
Till the end of my days,"
That immovable Man of Kildare.

- Edward Lear 1846

Characteristics of a Limerick.

Here's another example of a limerick.....

There was an old man called McCarney
Who was born in the small town of Blarney
He never stopped talking
Even when he was walking
How we wish he was born in Killarney.

The main character's name or a place name is used at the end of the first line, to establish the rhyme.

The first, second and fifth lines rhyme, and the third and fourth lines rhyme.

The rhyming pattern is a, a, b, b, a.

The first, second and fifth lines have 9 beats.
The third and fourth lines are shorter and
usually have six beats.

Write your own limerick.

Here are a few guidelines to help get you started....

First line introduces a person and/or a place.
Describe something special about the person in the second line.
Describe what they do or a problem they have in the third line.
Continue describing their traits or their problem in the fourth.
Finally, solve their problem with a funny ending in the last line.

There was a _____ _____ from _____.
Who _____.
S/he _____.
And _____.
Now s/he _____.

Now write your own limerick using one of the frames below. Don't forget your title or to sign your name as the poet.

My Limerick

Title

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Limerick Writer

My Limerick

Title

_____

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_____

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Limerick Writer's Name

My Limerick

Title

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Limerick Writer's Name

My Limerick

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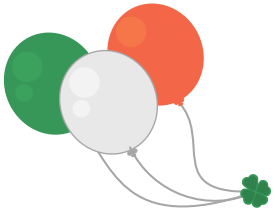
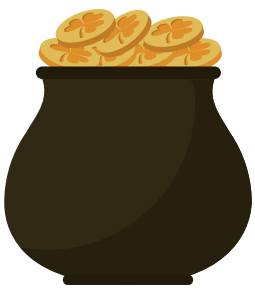
by _____





Irish American Mom

Celebrating Our Irish Heritage Together

Thanks so much for downloading this printable.

You are welcome to print this resource and share it with students or with anyone you think may enjoy creating a few limericks. For more information about Ireland and all things Irish and Irish American, please check out my blog, Irish American Mom.

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