

LESSON PLAN
GRADE 2-4
The Book of Nonsense Volume-3

LESSON TITLE: Finding Synonyms for Limericks

LESSON OBJECTIVE: The students will find synonyms and count syllables for new word choices for limerick poetry.

MATERIALS:

- **The Book of Nonsense Volume-3* (both Streaming and You Read Versions)
- *Printable *Limericks from Volume 1 & 2* (for teachers' reference during Guided Practice)
- *Printable *Limericks & Synonyms Activity Sheet* (one for each student)
- *Thesaurus

LESSON PLAN

1. **ENGAGE:** Students will view Streaming version *The Book of Nonsense Volume-3*.
2. Next, the teacher will play the You Read version of *The Book of Nonsense Volume-3* and lead the whole class in clapping the syllables in each line of the limericks.

Note: Edward Lear occasionally took poetic liberty in adhering to the syllable pattern. Praise students who recognize when Lear deviated from the limerick rules.
3. **TEACH:** Review the structural of limericks; five lines, AABBA rhyming pattern, (9, 9, 6, 6, 9) or (8, 8, 5, 5, 8) syllable pattern
4. Explain that a synonym is a word that has the same meaning as another word. Explain that sometimes writers have trouble thinking of just the right word they want to use, so they use a thesaurus to help them select the best word.
5. Explain that synonyms are important because they can help us make better word choices by substituting a plain or uninteresting word for a more interesting word that means the same thing.
6. Model how to use a thesaurus to find synonyms for a word.
7. **GUIDED PRACTICE:** Write the limericks from Volume 1 or 2 on the board. Underline several words in each limerick and ask the students to use the thesaurus to find synonyms to replace the underlined words.
8. Extra Challenge, ask students to try to find synonyms that have the syllable count as the original word.

9. Call on students to come up to the board to write a synonym above the original word. Ask students to clap the syllables to see if they kept the same syllable count.

Note: Sometimes students will not be able to keep the same syllable count when substituting a word for a synonym, as Edward Lear did on occasion. Tell students that for this lesson that will be okay as long as they use the thesaurus to find a more interesting word choice.

10. INDEPENDENT PRACTICE: Hand out the Printable *Limericks & Synonyms Activity Sheet* to each student. Students will use the thesaurus to find synonyms for all of underlined words on the activity sheet and write the new word in the space provided.

11. ASSESSMENT/CLOSURE: Observe students correctly using the thesaurus to find synonyms. Let the students read their revised limericks with synonyms to the class. Collect the *Limericks & Synonyms Activity Sheet* and grade based on completion, neatness, good choice of synonyms, and using the thesaurus.

Teacher's Reference Printable
For the Guided Practice Portion of the Synonyms Lesson
Limericks from Volume 1 & 2

An Old Man with a Beard

There was an Old Man with a beard,
Who said, "It's just as I feared!
Two Owls and a Hen,
Four Larks and a Wren,
Have all built their nests in my beard!"

An Old Man of The Hague

There was an old man of The Hague,
Whose ideas were excessively vague?
He built a balloon
To examine the moon.
That deluded old man of The Hague.

An Old Man on a Hill

There was an Old Man on a hill,
Who seldom, if ever, stood still;
He ran up and down
In his grandmother's gown
Which adorned that old man on a hill.

Young Lady of Ryde

There was a Young Lady of Ryde,
Whose shoe-strings were seldom untied.
She purchased some clogs,
And some small spotted dogs,
And frequently walked about Ryde.

Old Man with a Nose

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

Young Lady Whose Bonnet

There was a Yong Lady whose bonnet,
Come untied when the birds sat upon it.
But she said, "I don't care!
All the birds in the air
Are welcome to sit on my bonnet!"

QUIZ KEY
The Book of Nonsense Volume 3

1. How many lines are in a limerick?
 - a. one
 - b. three
 - c. five**
 - d. seven

2. What is the correct limerick rhyming pattern?
 - a. ABABA
 - b. AABBA**
 - c. ABCDE
 - d. AAABB

3. Who wrote *The Book of Nonsense*?
 - a. William Shakespeare
 - b. George Washington
 - c. Thomas Edison
 - d. Edward Lear**

4. In the limerick, *Old Man of Quebec*, what word rhymes with Quebec?
 - a. beetle
 - b. needle
 - c. neck**
 - d. angry

5. In the limerick, *Old Man of Quebec*, what ran over his neck?
 - a. a fly
 - b. a spider
 - c. a worm
 - d. a beetle**

6. In the limerick, a *Young Lady of Bute*, what musical instrument did she play?
 - a. a violin
 - b. a guitar
 - c. a flute**
 - d. a trumpet

7. What kind of animal did the Young Lady of Bute play jigs for?
 - a. pigs**
 - b. cats
 - c. dogs
 - d. horses

8. In the limerick, *Old Person of Mold*, which word rhymes with Mold?

- a. hot
- b. sunny
- c. cold**
- d. rainy

9. How many syllables are in the first line of *Young Lady of Turkey*?

There was a Young Lady of Turkey

- a. 7
- b. 8
- c. 9**
- d. 10

10. How many syllables are in the third line of *Young Lady of Turkey*?

When the day turned out fine

- a. 3
- b. 4
- c. 5
- d. 6**

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