

LESSON PLAN  
GRADE 2-4  
*The Book of Nonsense, Volume 1*  
*Four More Limericks*

**LESSON TITLE:** Writing Limerick Poems

**OBJECTIVE:** Students will identify the “AABBA” rhyme, limerick syllable pattern and write a limerick poem.

**MATERIALS:** *The Book of Nonsense-Volume1* (the streaming and printable versions), The Silly Sample Limerick Poem (one for the teacher), My Limerick Poem Printable (one for each student), pencils, crayons, two different color markers (markers will color code the rhyming words)

**LESSON PLAN:**

**1. ENGAGE:**

Read the Silly Sample Limerick Poem Printable aloud for the students. Let the students have affective response. Ask the students if they have ever heard a poem like this. Tell students this kind of poem is called a limerick.

2. Students will view the electronic book, *The Book of Nonsense-Volume1*, by Edward Lear.

**3. TEACH:**

WHAT IS A LIMERICK- A limerick is a humorous and silly poem with specific patterns and structure style. Limericks have 5 lines, AABBA rhyming pattern, and the syllable pattern (9, 9, 6, 6, 9) or (8, 8, 5, 5, 8). Writer Edward Lear is credited with popularizing limericks, he is also known as the Father of Limericks.

SYLLABLE PATTERN-Post the *Book of Nonsense Vol. 1* printable version on the board or easel. Explain that limericks are predictable poems that have five lines and use a syllable pattern. Tell the student to join you in clapping and counting the syllables on each line.

4. Ask the students if they see the syllable pattern. Call on students to write the number of syllables beside each line of the poems on the board. Students should recognize an 8,8,5,5,8 or 9,9,6,6,9 syllable counting pattern.

5. RHYMING PATTERN-Ask the students if they recognize the pattern of rhyming words. Call on students to the board to circle the rhyming words with markers. Each set of rhyming words should be color coded. Color coding the rhyming words will aid the students in identifying the rhyming pattern.

#### **6. GUIDED PRACTICE:**

WRITING A LIMERICK TOGETHER-Ask the students to think of topics for a limerick and write their ideas on the board. Select a topic by a majority vote. (Topic ideas can include a student's name, a character in a book, a pet, an animal, etc.) Remind the students that a limerick is a fun and silly poem with five lines, and has a syllable pattern and a rhyming pattern. The students will construct the poem together on the board. Guide the students as they create the limerick poem. Let the students write another limerick or two until they really get the hang of all the structural elements of writing limericks.

#### **7. INDEPENDENT PRACTICE:**

Students will write a limerick poem independently. The students may choose their own topic or use a topic from the list on the board. Directions: Hand out the My Limerick Printable for each student. Students are to complete the questions that are asked on the printable and write an original limerick.

#### **8. CLOSURE:**

Ask students to describe the structural elements of limerick poetry, what mood are limericks intended to evoke, and who is known as the Father of Limericks and popularized limericks (Edward Lear). Students may read their limerick in front of the class.

#### **9. ASSESSMENT:**

Collect the students' My Limerick Poem printable and grade according completion and accuracy of the limerick writing structure and practicable patterns.

## The Silly Sample Limerick Poem

(For the Engage Portion of Lesson Plan)

Directions: The teacher will read this sample limerick poem to the class as an introduction opening to limericks. Limericks contain five lines. The syllable pattern and rhyming pattern are indicated on this sample.

Note:

Lines 1, 2, 5 should rhyme. Lines 3, 4 should rhyme.

Lines 1, 2, 5 have 9 syllables (or 8 syllables).

Lines 3, 4 have 6 syllables (or 5 syllables).

(9 syllables) There once was a sweet girl who baked **pies**  
(9 syllables) She shared her desserts with all the **guys**  
(6 syllables) But little did they know  
(6 syllables) She bakes with her big toe  
(9 syllables) They shrieked and sobbed but are now more **wise**

There once was a sweet girl who baked pies  
She shared her desserts with all the guys  
But little did they know  
She bakes with her big toe  
They shrieked and sobbed but are now more wise

There once was a prince named Sir Lad Ted  
Demanded his meals be served in bed  
Up came a swarm of rats  
Just like Aristocrats  
So Ted dined at the table instead

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### My Limerick Poem

Directions: Write the answers to the following questions with a pencil. Then, write your own funny limerick on the lines provided. Remember to use the correct limerick structure.

1. How many lines are in a limerick?

2. Circle the correct syllable pattern used to create a limerick.

9, 9, 6, 6, 9

19, 19, 16, 16, 19

3. Circle the correct rhyming pattern used to create a limerick.

AABBA

ABABA

My Limerick Title \_\_\_\_\_

Handwriting practice lines for writing a limerick. Each line set consists of a solid top line, a dashed midline, and a solid bottom line. There are 10 such sets of lines provided for writing.

QUIZ KEY  
*The Book of Nonsense Volume 1*

1. Who was the main character in these four limerick poems?
  - a. an old woman
  - b. an old man**
  - c. a young woman
  - d. a young man
  
2. What kind of animal lived in the old man's beard?
  - a. squirrels
  - b. butterflies
  - c. birds**
  - d. cats
  
3. What did the animals build in the old man's beard?
  - a. huts
  - b. houses
  - c. nests**
  - b. cobwebs
  
4. What was disturbing the old man in the tree?
  - a. a beetle
  - b. an ant
  - c. a dragonfly
  - d. a bee**
  
5. Why did the old man build a balloon?
  - a. to examine a baboon
  - b. to examine a lagoon
  - c. to examine the moon**
  - d. to examine a cocoon
  
6. What did the old man on the hill wear?
  - a. his father's pants
  - b. his mother's shirt
  - c. his grandfather's shoes
  - d. his grandmother's gown**
  
7. What was Edward Lear's goal in writing limerick poems?
  - a. to write sad poems
  - b. to write funny poems**
  - c. to write unexciting poems
  - d. to write boring poems
  
8. How many lines are in a limerick poem?

- a. 1 line
- b. 2 lines
- c. 5 lines**
- d. 15 lines

9. Which patterns are found in limericks?

- a. only rhyming patterns
- b. only syllable patterns
- c. both rhyming and syllable patterns**
- d. no patterns

10. Which author wrote the limericks in *The Book of Nonsense*?

- a. Edward Lear**
- b. Dr. Seuss
- c. Beatrix Potter
- d. Shel Silverstein