



Let's Write LIMERICKS!

Writing limericks may seem very **hard**.
You might think it's not in the **cards**.
Download this **plan**,
Have it to **hand**,
And your class will all write like **bards**!

Examples

Step-By-Step Instructions

Writing Templates

Teaching Tips

GRADES 3-5

Writing Limericks 2 - 3 Days

Materials:

- "Teacher Sample Limericks" - for the Anticipatory Set
- "What is a Limerick" - explanation of the limerick form
- "Laugh out Limericks" - model limericks page
- "Limerick or Not?" - check for understanding page & key
- "Now it's your turn to write a limerick!" - step-by-step directions (2 page)
- Fun stationary to write final limerick's on
- Sign to use on a bulletin board or as a cover to publish a student book of your class limericks

Anticipatory set: Read the limericks from the "Teacher Sample Limericks" page. Ask the class what they notice about these poems, or if they know what type of poems they are.

Body:

Full Lesson Plan

Day 2

Step 4: Students will work through writing their own limerick using the "Now it's your turn to write a limerick!" pages. They will start by brainstorming their topic and rhyming words for the A lines.

Included in this step is conferencing with the teacher to verify that the poem meets the requirements of a limerick. Once the students' drafts are complete and approved, they should move on to Step 5.

Step 5: Write the limerick on the included stationary and illustrate it.

Step 6: Publish your limericks in a class book, or make a fun bulletin board.

Closure: Have students share their limericks. If you do this activity around St. Patrick's Day it could be at a class party with treats!

Copyright 2026 Toni Stevens-Oliver

Teacher Sample Limericks

There once was a slice of hot pie,
That smelled so delicious, oh my!
It slid off the plate,
A terrible fate,
And splattered right under my eye.

There once was a kid with
Who read in each quiet
From morning till night
With pure reading delight
She finished it quick as

Laugh Out Loud Limericks

Limericks often start with "There was a(n) _____ from _____"
For example: There once was an Old Man of Kilkenny
The next three lines tell us something about the Old Man, usually something funny.
The final line sums it often. Sometimes the rhyming word from line 1 may repeat.

Sample Limericks for Teacher & Student

There once was a baker
Who made treats for you
With frosting so nice
On each tasty swirl
He went on a whole bake

With ears that were floppy and boxy.
On short little feet,
It raced down the street,
Trying hard to look fierce—not so foxy!



There once was a lazy old hound,
Who slept while the kids played around.
He snored on the rug,
All cozy and snug,
Without even hearing a sound.

There once was a rocket so bright,
That blasted away in the night.
It zoomed past the moon,
Humming a tune,
A dazzling and marvelous sight!



Name: _____ Date: _____

What is a Limerick?



A limerick is a poem with 5 lines. It's not known for sure, but many believe that limericks are from County Limerick in Ireland. Limericks are written in the AABBA pattern and have a rhythm. Read the limerick below. Highlight the rhyming words at the end of each sentence (one color for each set of rhyming words).

There once was a fluffy white sheep
Who would run through the field and leap
She'd jump very high
Almost touching the sky
Then she'd cuddle back down

In a limerick the first, second and fifth lines rhyme
Limericks have a bouncy rhythm when you say them

Name: _____ Date: _____

Limerick or Not?

There once was a cat on a chair,
Who didn't quite know where to stare.
Yes, it's a limerick!

Now

Student Pages – explaining the limerick format & checking for understanding.

Four larks and a wren
Have built their nests in
—Edward Lear

He aimed for the net,
The best one yet—
But hit a lamp right off the wall!

No, it's not a limerick, here's why

There once was a student at school,
Who thought math was terribly cool.
They added and subtracted numbers every single day,
And worked with a partner in every possible way,
And followed each classroom rule.

Yes, it's a limerick!

No, it's not a limerick, here's why

There once was a dog who loved cake,
Who gobbled up each crumb he could take.
He licked off his plate,
Then sat by the gate,
And waited for more treats outside.

Yes, it's a limerick!

No, it's not a limerick, here's why

Name: _____ Date: _____



Now it's your turn to write a limerick!

Before you start to write, let's brainstorm some ideas. What are some topics you'd like to write a limerick about? Topics should be a person, animal or place.

Brainstorming area for ideas.

Now take some of those words and words

Line 1: Choose the name of a person, animal or place from your brainstorm list. Write your first line.
Example: I picked sheep, and wrote "There once was a fluffy white sheep".

Your Word

Line-by-line student directions for crafting their own creative limericks.

Line 5: Write your final line. This line is usually funny or silly. The final word must rhyme with the final words in lines 1 and 2. Sometimes it is the same word as in line 1 (the person, animal or place).

There once was a fluffy white sheep
Who would run through the field and leap
She'd jump very high
Almost touching the sky
Then she'd cuddle back down for a sleep



Our Class

Sil

Name: _____

Date: _____

Student publishing pages & book or display art.

Student publishing page with a decorative border featuring a leprechaun hat, a pot of gold, and a rainbow. It includes lines for writing and a space for a drawing.

Name: _____ Date: _____