

Limerick

When people think of limericks, they often think of humor. Due to the rhyme and rhythm that make up a limerick, poets often end up with a light-hearted poem. The limerick consists of five lines that follow a specific meter. See below for the complete limerick poem rules, an example and your own planning chart.

Limerick Poem Rules:

1. Lines 1, 2, and 5 have three “feet” or stressed syllables.
2. Lines 3 and 4 have two “feet” or stressed syllables.
3. The poem follows this general plan for meter – each “da da DA” is a foot.
da da DA da da DA da da DA
da da DA da da DA da da DA
da da DA da da DA
da da DA da da DA
da da DA da da DA da da DA

Limerick Poem Example:

There was an Old Man in a tree,
Whose Whiskers were lovely to see;
But the Birds of the Air
Pluck’d them perfectly bare,
To make themselves Nests in that Tree.
By Edward Lear

Limerick Poem Planner:

To help you get started with your own limerick, you may want to begin with one of the following lines:

There once was boy/girl from _____.

There once was a man/woman from _____.

There once was a boy/girl named _____.

There once was a man/woman named _____.

