

# Example Text: Limerick Poetry (Ages 7 - 11)

A limerick is a short, five-lined nonsense poem, which aims to entertain people and make them laugh.

Limericks have a **rhyming structure**. Lines 1, 2 and 5 rhyme with each other. This means the final sound of each of these lines is the same. Lines 3 and 4 rhyme with each other (but have different sounds to lines 1, 2 and 5). This rhyming structure is called **AABBA** (all the As rhyme and all the Bs rhyme).

Limericks also have a **syllable structure**. A **syllable** is a single sound - for example, 'dog' has one syllable, but 'puppy' has two syllables. Lines 1, 2 and 5 have 7 - 10 syllables. Lines 3 and 4 have 5 - 7 syllables.

Creating rhyming poems with specific structure can be quite tricky! Take a look at these examples and the features required.

1 Follow the **syllable structure** of a limerick poem. Lines 1, 2 and 5 have 7 - 10 syllables, while lines 3 and 4 have 5 - 7 syllables.

1 There once was a young man

from Ealing,

2 Follow the **line structure** of a limerick poem by having 5 lines.

2 Who always would swing from

the ceiling.

3 Follow the **rhyming structure** of a limerick poem. Lines 1, 2 and 5 must rhyme with each other (**AABBA**).

3 He could not wear a hat,

4 Follow the **rhyming structure** of a limerick poem. Lines 3 and 4 must rhyme with each other (**AABBA**).

4 But would hang like a bat,

5 Line 1 begins with a phrase to introduce the subject of the poem, which usually ends with the **name of a person or place**.

5 And say, "What a wonderful feeling!"

6 Line 2 gives **more information** about the subject. It often begins with 'who', 'with' or 'that'.

7 Lines 3 and 4 often give the reader some **action** about the subject, using **verbs**.

8 Line 5 is the **punchline** to make the reader laugh and usually shows the **consequence** of lines 3 and 4. Sometimes, it will include speech. Make sure your child punctuates any speech in their poem accurately.

1 There was an old Martian named Zed,



2 With bright blue spots all over his head.



3 He sent out a lot,



4 Of di-dash-dot-dot,



5 But nobody knew what he said!



Challenge your child to include a **figurative language** technique in their limerick, such as **alliteration**. This involves repeating the first sound in a string of words or words that are close together in a sentence. Here, the alien poem uses 'bright blue' and 'di-dash-dot-dot'.