

Learn how to write your own limerick

You will need:

A pen
Some paper

Discover the rhyme-scheme of a limerick

Task: read the following limericks *out loud*. We've highlighted the rhyming words in the first poem. Can you **find the rhyming words** in the other poem?

A Potato

There was a potato called *Dash*
Who would run everywhere in a *flash*
He took it too *far*
And run under a *car*
And now he's a big pile of *mash*

Robin Hood

There once was a Robin called Hood
Who stole from the rich for the good
Acting gallant and tough
He'd nick all your stuff
Then disappear into the wood

Question: which lines need to rhyme in a limerick?

Answer: Lines 1, 2 and 5 rhyme together. Lines 3 and 4 rhyme together

Take it further: read these limericks again and try clapping the rhythm

Have a go at writing a limerick!

To write a limerick you will need to think about a **person, place or thing** that you want to focus on in your poem:

Why is Nottingham a special place?
Where are you excited to go in Nottingham?
Who do you love in Nottingham? Who are you excited to see?
What or who makes you laugh or smile in Nottingham?
Can you remember a silly story about Nottingham?

Line 1: Make a start

Start your first line with the words:

There was...

Continue to describe your chosen person, place or thing.

Remember to *clap the rhythm*

Line 2: Develop the story

In the second line of your poem, you need to **add some detail** about the person, thing or place.

What happens?
What does it look or feel like?
Does the person say something?
Do you say something?

Lines 3 and 4: **Surprise** us with something silly!

In lines 3 and 4 you need to surprise us!

Does Nottingham Castle wear a pink dress?
Can Nottingham dogs meow like cats?
Does the National Ice Centre melt all over the City?
Does the grass in the football stadium turn blue?
Does everyone in Nottingham suddenly smell something... .. *funky*?!

TOP TIP: Make these lines as SILLY AS POSSIBLE! Remember that these lines need to rhyme together.

Line 5: The punch-line!

Think about your favourite joke. The ending of the joke, called the punch-line, is what **makes us laugh or smile**.

How can you make your reader smile?
What would be the silliest possible ending to your poem?

Editing your poem

Check the rhymes

Go over your poem and check that the lines rhyme in the following way:

Line 1, line 2 and 5 rhyme

Lines 3 and 4 rhyme

Check the ... silliness!

Is there a way to make your poem *even funnier*? Don't hold back, this is your chance to be as silly as possible!

Performing your poem

Gather everyone in your house together and stage a performance. Alternatively, you could perform over video-link to family or friends.

Ask your audience for feedback:

- Is the poem silly enough?
- Does it tell a short story?
- Can they hear the rhymes?
- Can they hear the rhythm?

Take it further ...

Why not teach someone at home all about limericks?