## Learn to write a Limerick

### You will need:

* A pen
* Some paper
* A plastic cup or empty pot such as an empty yoghurt pot

## 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?

**The Tree on my Street**

*There once was a tree on my* ***street****,
I asked what it wanted to* ***eat****?
It said “I’m a* ***tree****!
You can’t talk to* ***me****!”
And ran away shaking its* ***leaves.***

**Gran Claps for Key Workers**

*On Thursdays Gran claps for key workers,
She stands on her step in her curlers!—
The neighbours don’t mind,
but not cos they’re kind—
They all stand outside in their knickers!*

*Question: which lines need to rhyme in a Limerick?*

***Take it further:*** *Read these Limericks again and try tapping the rhythm with your cup*

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

## 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 your home town a special place?

Where are you excited to go?

Who do you love? Who are you excited to see?

What or who makes you laugh or smile?

Can you remember a silly story about the place where you live?

### 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 tap the rhythm with your cup.*

### 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 your dog meow like a cat?

Was the mountain actually a volcano all along?

Does the grass in the football stadium turn blue?

Does everyone in the city 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 sillier*? 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. *You could perform with your cup if you want to.*

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 teach someone at home all about Limericks? You could even show them the Limerick cup song.