

How to Write a Dreadfully Funny Limerick

Dear Reader,

in order to prepare for unexpected happenstances (as Francie Dewdrop would do), it might be wise to capture some *extra* tears. To that end, some *extra* limericks are needed.

Can you please help?

In *The League of Beastly Dreadfuls*, Quentin can only be set free from his cage by burning the lock with Ollie's tears. In order to get those tears flowing, Anastasia and Quentin try to get Ollie to laugh by making up limericks until he blubbers up some valuable waterworks of joy.

Here's how to write a limerick:

As with all poetic forms, there is a wonderful set of rules:

- A limerick is a short, humorous poem.
- It consists of five lines.
- It has a distinctive rhyming pattern (known as "AABBA").
- Lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme (the A's).
- Lines 3 and 4 rhyme (the B's).

Here's an example of a limerick from *The League of Beastly Dreadfuls*:

A bachelor from Timbuktu
Met an amorous ape at the zoo.
To Las Vegas they fled;
In a chapel they wed,
And now spend their days flinging poo.

What are the words that make up the "AAA" rhyming pattern (lines 1, 2, 5)?

What about the "BB" pattern (lines 3, 4)?

There are two more things that you will notice when you read limericks:

- The first line often ends with a person's first name or the name of a place.
- The last line is usually funny.

And, finally, because the first line often ends with the name of a person or place, writing that line is the easiest part. You simply pick the name of a person or place—like "Steve" or "moon."



BeastlyDreadfuls.com





Dear Reader, it's your turn to write a dreadfully funny limerick.

1. Pick the name of a person or place that will end your limerick's first line.

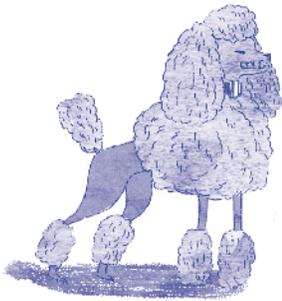
2. What are five to seven words that rhyme with this word?

3. Think of a funny ending to your limerick.

4. Remember that lines 3 and 4 need to rhyme.

5. Use a separate worksheet to craft your limerick.

When you are ready, write your finished limerick in the space below. Cut along the dotted line to display it in the classroom or library or on the fridge at home.



MY LAUGH-INDUCING, TEAR-PRODUCING LEAGUE OF BEASTLY DREADFULS LIMERICK



Written by: _____
(signature)

Grade: _____ Age: _____ Date (month/day/year): _____ / _____ / _____