

Types of  
Poetry:

Limericks



Study*ladder*

# Limericks

Limericks are funny five lined poems that follow a set rhythm pattern.

The first, second and fifth lines are longer and the third and fourth lines are shorter.

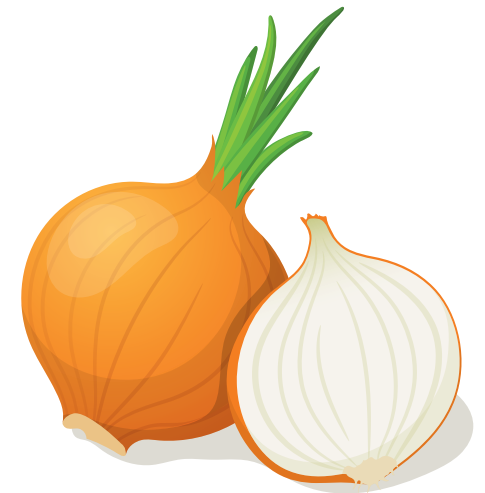
The first, second and fifth lines end with rhyming words and the third and fourth lines end with rhyming words.  
(A-A-B-B-A)

There are generally a total of 39 syllables in a limerick with 9 syllables in the first and second lines, 6 syllables in the third and fourth lines and 9 syllables in the fifth line (9 , 9 , 6 , 6 , 9.)

When you read a limerick you can hear that the emphasised syllables create patterns that repeat within the poem.

There was an Old Man of Kilkenny,  
Who never had more than a penny;  
He spent all that money,  
In onions and honey,  
That wayward Old Man of Kilkenny.

Edward Lear  
(1812 - 1888)



# Writing Limericks

## Line 1 & 2

The first and second lines of a limerick usually introduces a person and says something about them. For example, where they are from or points out something particular about them.

## Line 3 & 4

The third and fourth lines have a comedic twist.

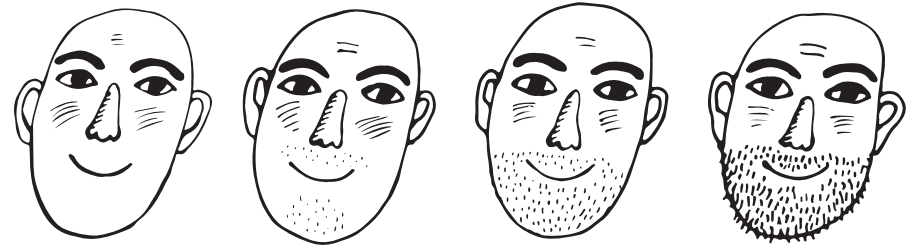
## Line 5

The last line provides a conclusion.



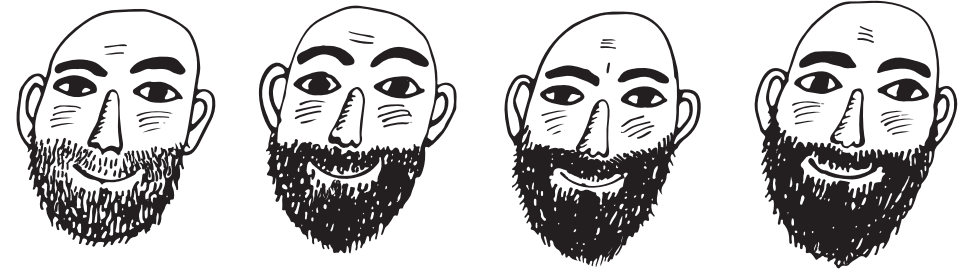
# Limericks

There was an Old Man with a beard,



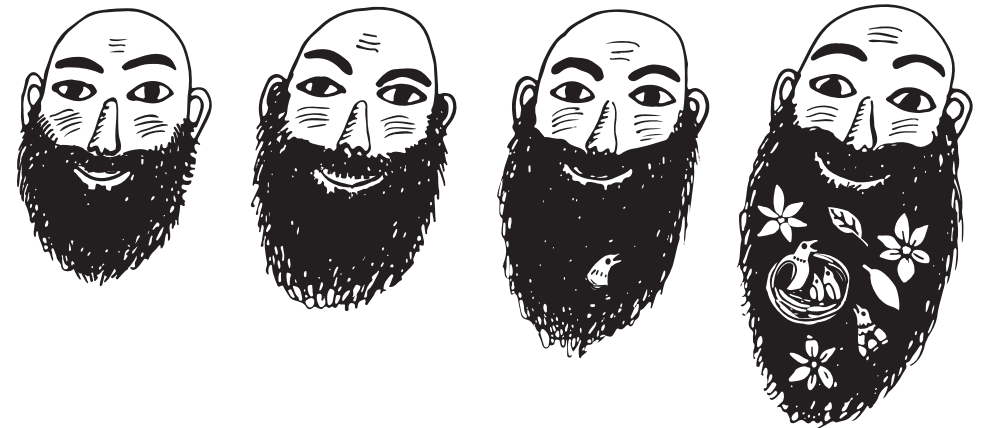
Who said, 'It is just as I feared!

Two Owls and a Hen,



Four Larks and a Wren,

Have all built their nests in my beard!



Edward Lear  
(1812 - 1888)