

# Limericks

## Origins of Limericks

The exact origins of the limerick are a bit hazy, with several theories as to how it got its name and form. Here are the most prominent ideas:

**The County Limerick Connection:** The most widely accepted theory is that the name "limerick" is directly related to the County of Limerick in Ireland. It is believed that the form popularized in England around the mid-19th century became associated with Irish soldiers who supposedly sang these catchy, humorous verses. However, there's no definitive proof that this specific style originated solely in Limerick.

Regardless of the exact moment it was coined, the limerick truly blossomed as a popular form of light verse in the mid-1800s, thanks in large part to figures like Edward Lear.

## The Structure of a Limerick, Simplified

Think of a limerick as a five-line poem with a special pattern of sounds and beats. Here are the main rules:

### 1. Always Five Lines

A limerick is not a long poem. It always has exactly five lines. No more, no less!

### 2. The Sound Pattern (AABBA)

This is the most important rule. The words at the end of the lines have to rhyme with each other in a specific way.

- The last words of line 1, line 2, and line 5 must all rhyme together. (rhyme A)
- The last words of line 3 and line 4 must rhyme with each other. (rhyme B)

This creates a bouncy "AABBA" sound pattern.

Limericks have a very special "da-Da-DUM" rhythm.

# Limericks

A green little fellow named Dan,  
Had a very mischievous plan.  
He hid all the gold,  
In a teapot quite old,  
And then through the green bushes ran.

1. Where did Dan hide the gold?
  - a) Under a large shamrock
  - b) In a pot at the end of a rainbow
  - c) In a teapot
  - d) In his pocket

2. What is Dan?
  - a) A rabbit
  - b) A little green fellow
  - c) A tall man
  - d) A rainbow



There once was a rainbow so grand,  
Stretched out over all of the land.  
With colors so bright,  
A beautiful sight,  
It looked like it was painted by hand.

3. What is the rainbow compared to in the last line?
  - a) A painted picture
  - b) A colorful bridge
  - c) A grand parade
  - d) Stretched out land

4. The poem says the rainbow's colors are:
  - a) Very dull
  - b) Fading away
  - c) So bright
  - d) Only green

