

ZIPTALES™

Reading the Poem Famous Poems by Edward Lear

Teacher Strategy A

1. Introduce these verses by explaining that when Edward Lear published his first limericks in *Book of Nonsense* in 1846 he was already well known as an illustrator. For a time he was Drawing Master to Queen Victoria.
2. Explain that a limerick is a story in just five lines. The first line introduces the main character and sets the scene for the action that follows.
3. Read the first of the limericks and allow time for class to comment.
4. Display the verses for the class to follow as you read them aloud.
5. Have students tell which limerick they believe "tells the best story" and why they think so.
6. Students record and illustrate their favourite Lear limerick.



Reading the Poem

Famous Poems by Edward Lear

Teacher Strategy B

1. Display the limericks so that the class can see all five.
2. Class know from previous lesson that limericks are written in just five lines. Explain that they also obey rules regarding rhyme. Ask class to read the first limerick to themselves.
4. What pattern can they see? Can they identify that the 1st, 2nd and 5th lines rhyme and the 3rd and 4th lines have a different rhyme.
5. Ask class to check that this is so in all the limericks displayed.
6. On a paper copy, or computer screen class can use highlighter to show the rhyming pattern.
7. If class understands the rhyming scheme have them work on **LIMERICKS BLM 1**.





Reading the Poem

Famous Poems by Edward Lear

Teacher Strategy C

1. Have limericks displayed and remind class of the rhyme pattern that they discovered earlier.
2. Explain that the other feature of a limerick's pattern is the *rhythm*.
3. Read one limerick and have class tap the rhythm as you read.
 - Ask class to count the number of beats for the whole limerick.
 - Read a second and third limerick while they tap out the beat. What have they discovered?
4. Explain that the number of beats is the same for all limericks and that it follows a set pattern:
 - The **1st** line, **2nd** line and **5th** line have the same number of beats.
 - The **3rd** line and the **4th** line have fewer beats but they are the same number.
 - This is why every limerick has the same number of beats.

5. Demonstrate how to find the number of beats in each line by counting them on your fingers as the limerick is read.

/ / / / / / / /	
There was an Old Man with a beard,	= 8 beats
/ / / / / / / /	
Who said , "It is just as I feared!	= 8 beats
/ / / / /	
Two Owls and a Hen,	= 5 beats
/ / / / /	
Four Larks and a Wren,	= 5 beats
/ / / / / / / /	
Have all built their nests in my beard!"	= 8 beats

6. When class understands the structure of limericks have them complete **LIMERICKS BLM 2**.