

A limerick is a five-line poem written with one couplet and one triplet. If a couplet is a two-line rhymed poem, then a triplet would be a three-line rhymed poem. The rhyme pattern is a b b a with lines 1, 2 and 5 containing eight syllables and rhyming, and lines 3 and 4 having six syllables and rhyming. Some people say that the limerick was invented by soldiers returning from France to the Irish town of Limerick in the 1700's.

Limericks are meant to be funny. They often contain hyperbole, onomatopoeia, idioms, puns, and other figurative devices. The last line of a good limerick contains the PUNCH LINE or "heart of the joke."

A flea and a fly in a flue  
Were caught, so what could they do?  
Said the fly, "Let us flee."  
"Let us fly," said the flea.  
So they flew through a flaw in the flue.

A limerick fan from Australia  
regarded his work as a failure:  
his verses were fine  
until the fourth line  
?

There was a young lady named Kite  
Whose speed was much faster than light.  
She left home one day  
In a relative way  
And returned on the previous night.

There once was a fly on the wall  
I wonder why didn't it fall  
Because its feet stuck  
Or was it just luck  
Or does gravity miss things so small?

There once was a girl named Irene,  
who lived on distilled kerosene.  
But she started absorbin'  
A new hydrocarbon,  
And since then has never benzene!

There once was a slimmer named Steen  
Who grew so phenomenally lean  
And flat, and compressed,  
That his back touched his chest,  
So that sideways he couldn't be seen.

The incredible Wizard of Oz  
Retired from his business becoz  
due to up-to-date science,  
To most of his clients,  
He wasn't the Wizard he woz.

God's plan made a hopeful beginning,  
But Man spoilt his chances by sinning;  
We trust that the story  
Will end in great glory,  
But at present the other side's winning.

Archimedes, the well known truth-seeker,  
Jumping out of his bath, cried "Eureka!"  
He ran half a mile,  
Wearing only a smile,  
And became the very first stalker.

A young man from Timbucktoo  
Whose limericks stopped at line two.

There was a young fellow called Binn  
Who was so excessively thin  
That when he essayed  
To drink lemonade  
He slipped through the straw and fell in.

