**Limericks**

* They have five lines.
* They have a rhyme scheme of A, A, B, B, A (lines 1, 2, and 5 rhyme; lines 3 and 4 rhyme).
* The meter is 3, 3, 2, 2, 3. (number of parts that have a stressed syllable)
* The number of syllables is 8, 8, 5, 5, 8.
* The first line usually ends with a person’s first name or the name of a place.
* The last line is usually funny.

The Rhythm of a Limerick is something like this:

da DUM da da DUM da da DUM

da DUM da da DUM da da DUM

da DUM da da DUM

da DUM da da DUM

da DUM da da DUM da da DUM

Examples:

there WAS a young FELLow named HALL

who FELL in the SPRING in the FALL.

‘twould have BEEN a sad THING

had he DIED in the SPRING,

but he DIDn’t—he DIED in the FALL

there WAS an old MAN of NanTUCKet

who KEPT all his CASH in a BUCKet;

but his DAUGHTer, named NAN,

ran aWAY with a MAN,

and AS for the BUCKet, NanTUCKet.

**Steps to writing a limerick:**

1. Choose the name of a person or place and write the first line.
2. Look in a rhyming dictionary for words that rhyme with your person or place name.
3. Write line 2 and 5 to rhyme with the first line.
4. Now write lines 3 and 4 with a different rhyme.