

## Creative Writing

### Limericks

The limerick is one of the most popular and fun forms of poetry.

The limerick is a five line poem with a rhyme scheme of aabba. In other words, lines one, two, and five rhyme with each other and lines three and four rhyme with each other.

The limerick has a rhythm called anapestic. The stressed (/) and unstressed (U) pattern is as follows: UU/

The skeleton (for rhythm) of the limerick looks like this:

U/UU/UU/U

U/UU/UU/U

UU/UU/

UU/UU/

U/UU/UU/U

OCASIONALLY there is an iambic rhythm (U/) substituted for the anapestic, but this is rare.

Examples:

There was a young fellow named Hall,  
Who fell in the spring in the fall;  
'Twould have been a sad thing  
If he's 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 took both the money and bucket.

There was a young girl from Decatur,  
And all of the other girls hate her.  
She teased all the boys  
And treated them like toys  
And wouldn't let a single one date her.