

Grade 6 English Language Arts

Week of February 8 – February 12

Lesson 1: Building Creative Thinking Through Limericks

Creative Thinking

In this unit, you are building your "Creative Thinking Competency". This means you are working on the following:

- I can get new ideas or build on other people's ideas, to create new things within the constraints of a form, a problem, or materials
- I can develop a body of creative work over time in an area I'm interested in or passionate about
- I deliberately learn a lot about something so that I am able to generate new ideas or ideas just pop into my head
- I can usually make my ideas work within the constraints of a given form, problem, and materials if I keep playing with them
- I build the skills I need to make my ideas work, and usually succeed, even if it takes a few tries

After understanding a pattern poem called a limerick, you will build on the ideas of others to create your own limerick.

What's a Limerick?

- Limericks are nonsense poems. They are fun poems - written to bring joy - and they are even more fun to write!
- Limericks are usually narrative poems because they tell a story.
- Limericks are rhyming poems, which means they are not free verse poems.

Where are limericks originally from?

- Limericks are believed to have originated in the town of Limerick, Ireland.
- Limericks were made popular by a rather sarcastic Mr. Edward Lear who lived from 1812 - 1888.
- Many Irish immigrants settled in Canada. Between 1825 and 1845, 60% of all immigrants to Canada were Irish; in 1831 alone, some 34,000 arrived in Montreal. Approximately 1.2 million Irish immigrants arrived from 1825 to 1970. With them came pieces of their culture, including limericks.

Patterns in Limericks

Read these limericks. What patterns do you notice? What do you like about them? Are they serious or humorous?

There was an Old Man with a beard,

Who said, "It is just as I feared!

Two owls and a hen,

Four larks and a wren

Have all built their nests in my beard."

By Edward Lear

(Source: Prelutsky, J., & Lobel, A. (1983). The Random House Book of Poetry for Children. New York, NY: Random House.)

I raised a great hullabaloo,

When I found a large mouse in my stew.

Said the waiter, "Don't shout

And wave it about

Or the rest will be wanting one, too."

By Anonymous

(Source: Prelutsky, J., & Lobel, A. (1983). The Random House Book of Poetry for Children. New York, NY: Random House.)

As you read the next two limericks, look for patterns. You may already have discovered a few limerick patterns.

Limerick One:

A bull-voiced young fellow of Pawling,

Competes in meets for hog-calling,

The people applaud,

The judges are awed,

But the hogs find it simply appalling.

- By Morris Bishop

(Source: Prelutsky, J., & Lobel, A. (1983). The Random House book of poetry for children. New York, NY: Random House.)

How many lines were there in Limerick 1?

Which lines rhyme with line 1?

Which lines rhyme with line 3?

Now complete the analysis of "Limerick 2."

Limerick 2

Directions: Look for patterns in limericks. Complete the responses to the right of the poem.

<p>There once was a gnu in a the zoo Who tired of the same daily view. To seek a new sight He stole out one night, And where he went gnobody gnu.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">- <i>By Anonymous</i></p> <p><small>(Source: Cameron, B., & Cameron, J. (1995). <i>Prism of poetry: Patherways to writing</i>. Scarborough, Ont.: Prentic-Hall Canada)</small></p>	<p>Number of lines:</p> <p>Lines that rhyme with line 1:</p> <p>Lines that rhyme with line 3:</p>
--	---