

Grade 6 English Language Arts
Week of February 8 – February 12

Lesson 3: Syllable Pattern in Limericks

Limericks have a syllable rhythm pattern that helps to make them fun to read - almost like a song. Simply put, the syllables go like this:

da-DA-DA-da-DA-DA-da-da

da-DA-DA-da-DA-DA-da-DA

da-DA-DA-DA-da

da-DA-DA-DA-da

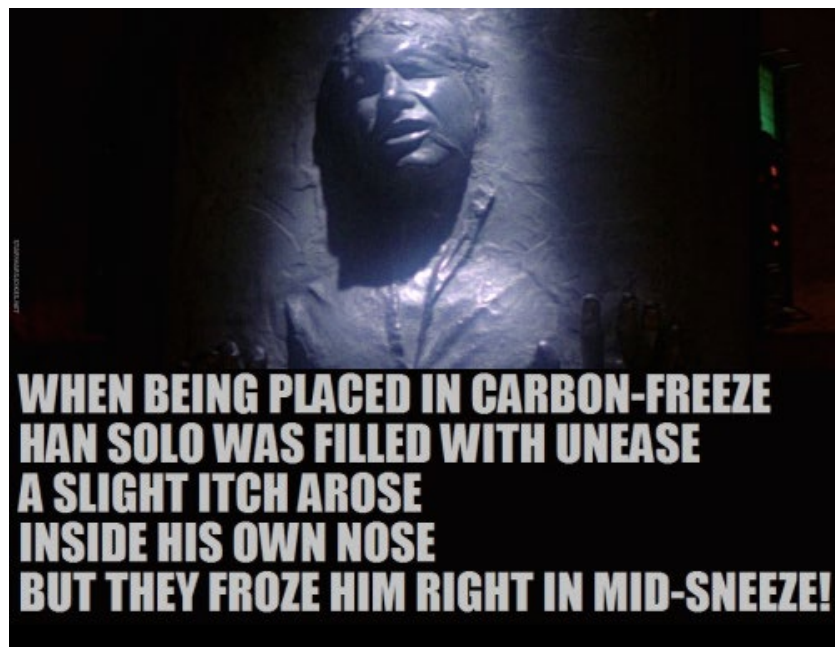
da-DA-Da-da-DA-Da-da-da

Limericks usually have **eight or nine syllables in lines one, two, and five** (although they may have ten).

Limericks usually have **five (or sometimes six) syllables in lines three and four**.

When you read limericks out loud, you can feel the rhythm in the lines!

Here is another example. What movie is it based on?



Now complete "Syllables in Limericks."

Syllables in Limericks

How many syllables are in each line in the following limericks? Draw a slash line (/) between each syllable. Write the count at the end of each line. The first line is done for you.

Line One: *I / raised / a / great / hul/ la/ ba/ loo*, Syllables: 9

Line Two: *When I found a large mouse in my stew*. Syllables: _____

Line Three: *Said the waiter, "Don't shout* Syllables: _____

Line Four: *And wave it about* Syllables: _____

Line Five: *Or the rest will be wanting one, too."* Syllables: _____

- By Anonymous

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