

Lesson 95 • Limericks



Limericks, pages 1-2

Level 23, Lexile 710L

A collection of structured, humorous poems by Edward Lear.

Comprehension strategy focus

Visualization: Good readers visualize pictures in their heads of the people, places, things and actions they are reading about. Visualizing helps build better understanding of a text. Looking for key words will help students visualize what is in the text.

The two worksheets for this lesson reinforce comprehension skills by asking students to visualize what they are reading about.

Online objectives

Students will:

- Predict actions and outcomes
- Understand the meanings of words
- Identify audience and purpose
- Match words to their definitions
- Make inferences

State standards

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.3.1

Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.3.4

Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Online lesson sequence:

- *Visualization Video:* how to visualize pictures of the people, places, things and action in a text.
- *Cover Story:* predicts what the book will be about.
- *Dictionary:* understands the meaning of these **focus words:** resemble (verb), purchase (verb), suppose (verb), remarkable (adjective), placid (adjective), relinquish (verb).
- *Audience and Purpose:* identifies the target audience and purpose of the text.
- *Key Words:* matches words to their definitions.
- *Making Inferences:* makes judgments based on clues in the text.
- *Read the Extract: Limericks* (pp. 1-2).
- *Comprehension Quiz*
- Map book *Artrageous, Chapter 5: Artrageous!* is unlocked.

Online assessment

- Students complete a 16 question comprehension quiz. The quiz tests literal, inferential, vocabulary and usage, text analysis and critical literacy comprehension skills. Example questions are:
 - *What is another way of saying if you choose to suppose? There is more than one correct answer.*
 - *Who does the word you refer to in this limerick?*
 - *Why did the old man very soon go back to Dover? Choose the best answer.*

Additional writing response

Use these texts to help you write your own limerick about an old man or woman.

Lesson book pages

What is a Limerick?

Limerick poems originated over two hundred years ago and were named after the town in Ireland of the same name. Limericks are short and funny. Town beggars and working class people would sing and recite them at social gatherings. The English poet Edward Lear made the Limerick poetic form very popular; his limericks are often very funny and have an appealing rhythm.

Limericks are five lines long. They have an AABBA rhyming scheme. The rhyming scheme describes the pattern of "end rhymes" in a poem. The rhyming words at the end of each line of a poem are called "end rhymes".

For example:

There was an old man with a beard
Who said, "It's just as I feared!"

Each new sound at the end of the sentence is given a letter of the alphabet. This is an example of an Edward Lear limerick with an AABBA rhyming scheme:

There was an old man with a beard A
Who said, "It's just as I feared!" A
Two owls and a hen, B
Four larks and a wren B
Are making a nest in my beard!" A

Limericks have an appealing rhythm. Try reading a limerick out loud. Notice that the first two lines and the last line have three "beats" and the third and fourth line have two "beats". Try clapping your hands to the beat as you recite the poem.

There was an old man with a beard (three beats)
Who said, "It's just as I feared!" (three beats)
Two owls and a hen, (two beats)
Four larks and a wren (two beats)
Are making a nest in my beard!" (three beats)