

Christmas Comedy

Developed for Poetry Out Loud 2021/22

Name of Lesson: Limerick Poem

Standards Addressed: W.9-10.2.d-e; W.11-12.2d-e; W.9-10.3; W.11-12.3; W.9-10.4; W.11-12.4; SL.9-10.4; SL.11-12.4; SL.9-10.6; SL.11-12.6

Lesson Focus: For this lesson the scholar will be writing a limerick poem. A **limerick** is a humorous **poem** consisting of five lines

Learning Objectives: The objective of this lesson is for the scholar to have fun and show off their humorous side. With Christmas a few weeks away, this is the perfect opportunity for students to get creative and tell a funny holiday story.

Materials Needed:

Pencil
Paper

Resource Video:

<https://youtu.be/ugz3RK8u22Y>

Activity:

As a class, in small groups, or individually, take ~10 minutes to brainstorm ideas about a funny Christmas memory. The poem can be fiction or non fiction.

A **limerick** is a humorous **poem** consisting of five lines. The first, second, and fifth lines must have seven to ten syllables while rhyming and having the same verbal rhythm. The third and fourth lines should only have five to seven syllables; they too must rhyme with each other and have the same rhythm.

A
A
B
B
A

Discuss the writing process with students. What came easy? What was challenging? How might they approach writing a poem differently next time? What are they proud of?

Share! Have students read/recite their poems for the class.

TIPS ON WRITING AN LIMERICK

1. **Tell a story.** When you read other limericks, you'll notice that they have a narrative arc, complete with a main character, plot, and resolution. When you write a limerick, approach it like a very short story.
2. **Start with your subject.** Your first line should introduce your main character and establish a setting if you're including one. For a practice run, start with your own name, jot down words that rhyme with it, and see what amusing limericks you can come up with.
3. **Make it absurd.** Limericks are meant to be nonsensical and silly. After you've introduced your main character, put them in an absurd scenario to ramp up the humor.
4. **End with a twist.** The last line of a limerick is like the punch line of a joke. End your limericks with a plot twist.