

Rhymes or Limericks. Print all pages. Staple. Read and color. p.1.

limerick - *n.* a five-line humorous poem or stanza with regular meter, rhyme patterns, and punning wordplay, often with risqué subject matter, and typically opening with a line such as "There once was a lady called Jenny."

The snappy five-line poems probably came from the streets and in the taverns of 14th century Britain. Over time, adults and children from all walks of life have delighted in witty limericks.

Writing a Limerick

Limericks are "closed form" poems that adhere to the following strict guidelines. The rhyme scheme is always AABBA.

1. The last word in lines 1 (A), 2 (A), and 5 (A) must rhyme with each other and contain 8-9 syllables each.
2. The last word in lines 3 (B) and 4 (B) must rhyme with each other and contain 5-6 syllables each.

But many poets bend some of the rules giving rise to other variations of the form.

rhyme - *n.* a poem with a pattern of similar sounds at the ends of lines.



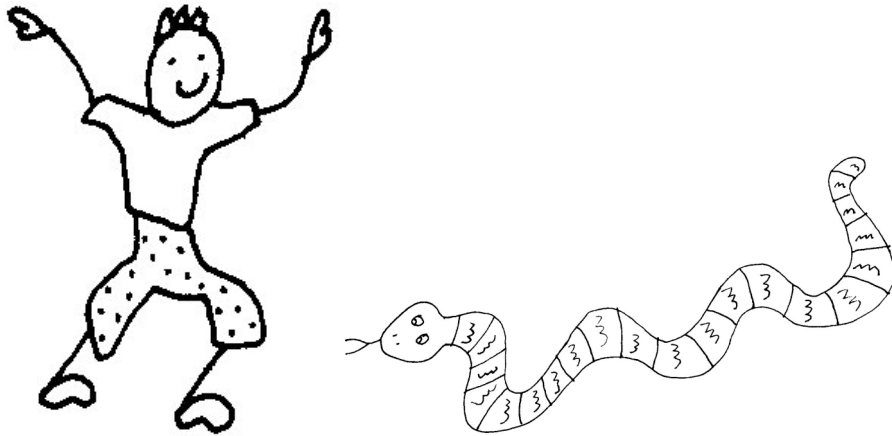
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There was a young man named Jake,
Who loved to eat chocolate cake;
It got everywhere,
On his nose, in his hair,
But he washed it all off in the lake.

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JAKE'S CAKE

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There once was a young man named Noah
Who traveled with his pet boa;
The snake liked to sleep,
In a low tree-stump deep,
But he always was ready to go-a.

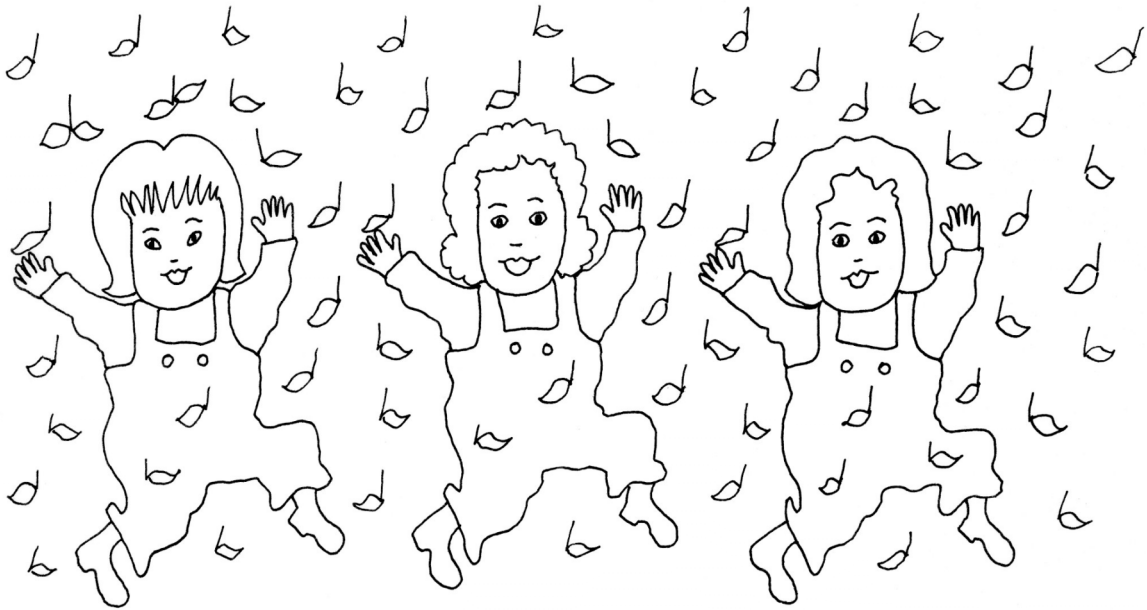
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Rhymes or Limericks cont'd.

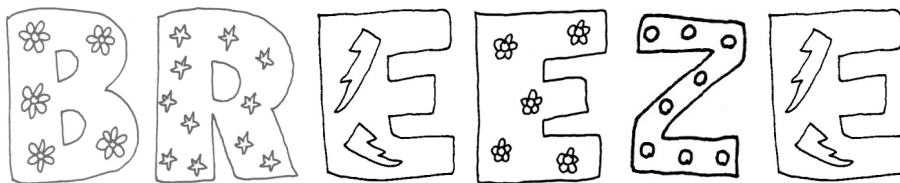
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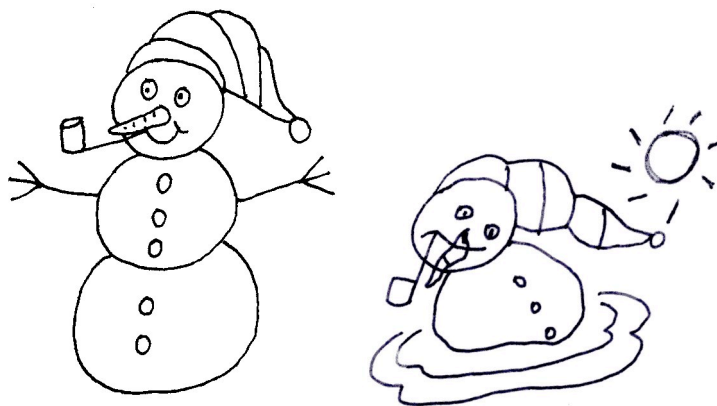
There were three girls playing in leaves,
When along came a brisk autumn breeze;
The girls gave a shout,
As they bandied about,
Dancing under the trees.

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TREES

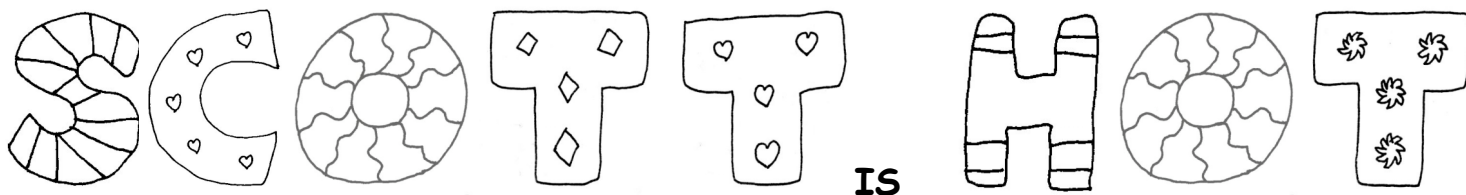
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There was once a snowman named Scott,
Who hated when it was hot;
While having some fun,
In the midday sun,
He melted and now he is not!

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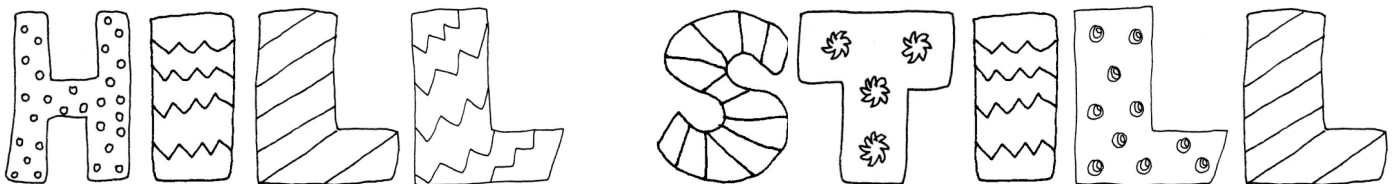
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There once was a man from Brazil,
Who liked to climb the highest hill;
He climbed high and wide,
With the greatest of pride,
And as far as I know, he climbs still.

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BEAVER



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There once was a clever old beaver,
Whose teeth acted like a meat cleaver;
He chomped and he chewed,
Each branch he pursued,
And built his dam like a pro weaver.

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CLEAVER

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Rhymes or Limericks cont'd. Print as many pages as you need. Write and illustrate your own rhyme/limerick. p.8.

NAME _____

