



### P is for Poets' Corner

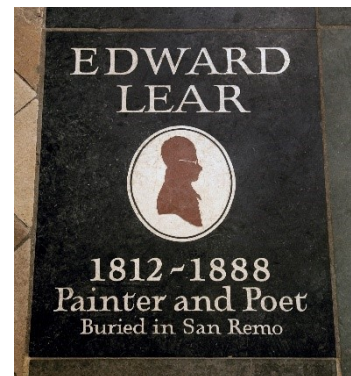
Limerick lessons

Poets' Corner – as the name suggests – is an area of the Abbey where many poets, and other creative people, are remembered. Poems come in all different shapes and sizes. Some have rules to follow, such as rhyming words or a number of beats in a line, whereas others are much freer.

Introducing Edward Lear. He was a Victorian poet and artist who loved to paint birds and to write nonsense. Today he is most well-known for his poem *The Owl and the Pussycat*. Have you heard of it? Check out the poem to find out what happened to them. You'll never be able to guess because Edward Lear's poems are always unexpected. The fun is in the guessing.

He loved writing limericks, short poems with a particular rhythm and rhyme which are absolutely silly.

[Learn about Lear's limericks](#)



Lots of poetry is designed to be heard, rather than read. Why not try reading aloud these two limericks by Edward Lear?

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!'	There was an Old Man in a tree, Whose whiskers were lovely to see; But the birds of the air, Pluck'd them perfectly bare, To make themselves nests in that tree.
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Have a think about those two limericks. Do any of the lines rhyme? Are all the lines the same length? Can you spot any patterns?

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### Creating your own limerick

Limericks are a type of poem that follow a set of rules. In a way, it is a bit like a recipe.

A limerick has:

- 5 lines
- Lines 1, 2 and 5 always rhyme
- Lines 3 and 4 always rhyme – these lines are often shorter too
- Line 5 is often similar, or echo, Line 1

Try to create your own limerick with this template...

<p>There was a Young Person in white</p> <hr/>
<p>When they said 'Please be still!'</p> <hr/>
<p>That _____ Young Person in white.</p>

Over to you! Time to design your own limerick from scratch. Make your limericks as silly as can be. They can be about anything, from parrots to sausages! Read them out to your group and see if they can guess what's coming up!

If you are feeling extra creative, you could come up with your own style of poem. Remember, not all poems have to rhyme!



There once was a lion called Livingstone,  
Who loved spending time in the sun,  
He'd write a poem or two,  
Just to share them with you,  
Before roaring "that was so much fun!"

Share your poems on Facebook or Twitter using #WAbbeyFun