

Alabama Water Rally Limerick Contest!

WHAT IN THE WORLD!

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, and to get some creative juices flowing, take a moment and prepare a limerick for Saturday night's After Party at Tavern & Porter! The best limericks will receive super fun prizes!

WHAT IS A LIMERICK, YOU ASK? See below for the super officialness of how to write a limerick.

You'll recite your award-winning limerick during Saturday's after party! If you won't be there but still want to be included, write your limerick on a sheet of paper with your name and email and we will read it for you!

Maybe your limerick is about water issues in Alabama? Or ARA? Or St Patrick's Day? Or something else you love?

Example from Curt:

There was some black stuff called coal ash.
Its dangers caused quite the backlash.
When ADEM came knockin'
And said you must do somethin'
Alabama Power delivered a big bag of cash.

Thank you to Ellis Long & Mary Leila Schaeffer for the idea and inspiration!

How to Write a Limerick by Bruce Lansky

To help you get started writing limericks, here's some helpful information about writing limericks. To begin, a limerick is a funny little poem containing five lines. It has a very distinctive rhythm and rhyme pattern.

Rhyme Pattern: The last words of the first, second, and fifth lines all rhyme with each other. We'll call those rhyming words "A," however the words could be "Peru," "shoe," and "true" as illustrated in the first poem below or "Tim," "swim," and "him" as illustrated in the second poem below. And the last words of the third and fourth lines rhyme with each other. We'll call those rhyming words "B," however the words could be "night" and "fright" in the first example or "dock" and "rock" in the second example.

Rhythm Pattern: The first, second, and fifth lines all have this rhythm pattern: da DUM da da DUM da da DUM (notice there are 3 DUMS or beats). Say, "There once was a fellow named Tim" out loud. Now say, "da DUM da da DUM da da DUM" out loud. Notice that both have the same rhythm. The third and fourth lines have a different rhythm pattern: da DUM da da DUM (notice there are 2 DUMS or beats). Say, "He fell off the dock" out loud. Now say "da DUM da da DUM" out loud. Notice that both have the same rhythm.

Example 1: Here is a very famous limerick. Notice both the rhyme and rhythm patterns.

There was an old man from Peru, (A) da DUM da da DUM da da DUM (3 DUMS) low
who dreamed he was eating his shoe. (A) da DUM da da DUM da da DUM (3 DUMS)
He awoke in the night (B) da DUM da da DUM (2 DUMS)
with a terrible fright, (B) da da DUM da da DUM (2 DUMS)
and found out that it was quite true. (A) da DUM da da DUM da da DUM (3 DUMS)

Example 2: A Clumsy Young Fellow Named Tim

There once was a fellow named Tim (A) whose dad never taught him to swim. (A) He fell off a dock (B)
and sunk like a rock. (B) And that was the end of him. (A)

