

December 2nd. The Limerick

The limerick is a typical English form which is used almost exclusively for humorous and nonsense poetry.



The origin of the form is obscure and the name probably derives from the refrain "*Will you come up to Limerick?*" which was added to nonsense poetry composed at convivial parties.

The elements that characterise a limerick concern the number of lines, the rhyme scheme, the stress pattern, the syntax, the subject-matter and the development of ideas.

A limerick is five lines long and has a 3, 3, 2, 2, 3 stress pattern rhyming aabba. It is meant to be amusing.

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A Milano c'è un orso allo specchio:
è ciccione ed anche un po' vecchino.
"Sono vecchio!" dice a sé stesso:
"Sei ciccione!" risponde il riflesso.
Arrabbiato, lui rompe lo specchio.

