

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.



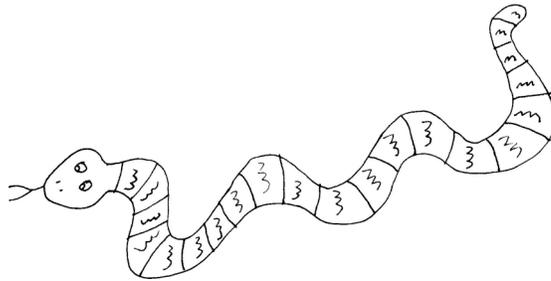
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There was a young man named Jake,  
Who loved to eat chocolate cake;  
It got everywhere,  
On his nose, in his hair,  
But he washed it all off in the lake.

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JAKE'S CAKE

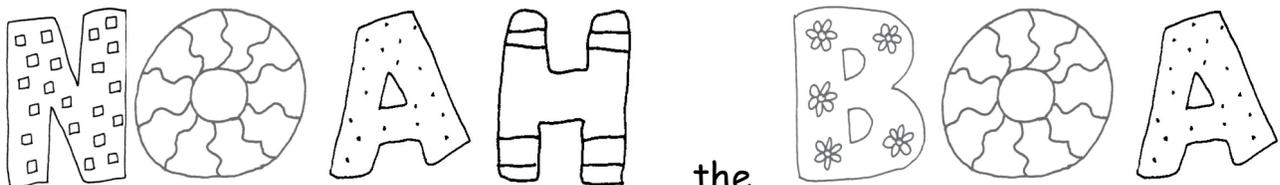
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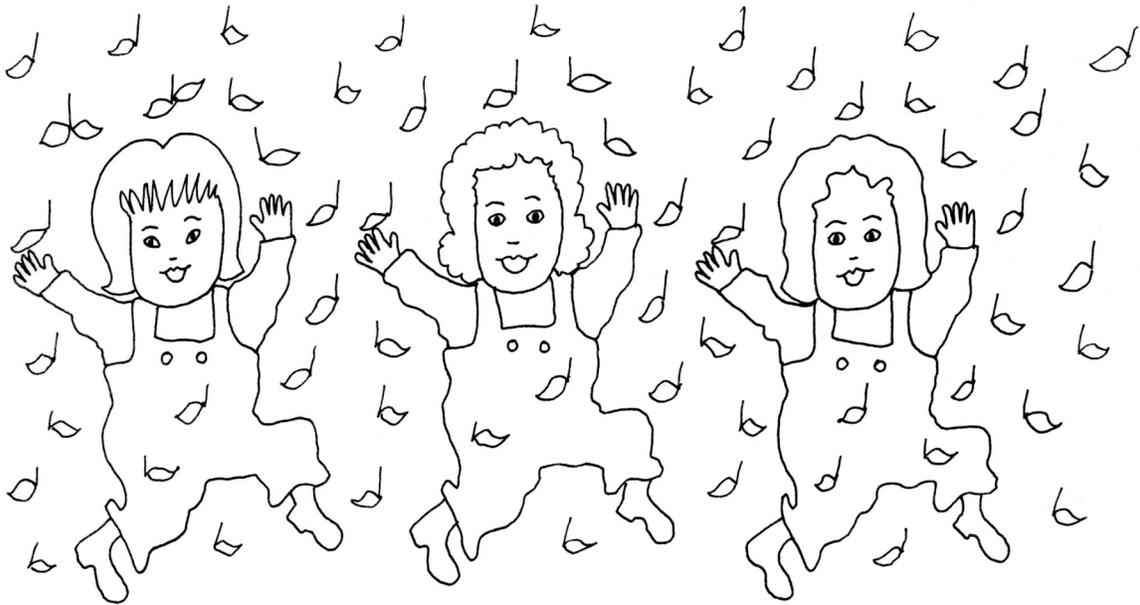
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There once was a young man named Noah  
Who traveled with his pet boa;  
The snake liked to sleep,  
In a low tree-stump deep,  
But he always was ready to go-a.

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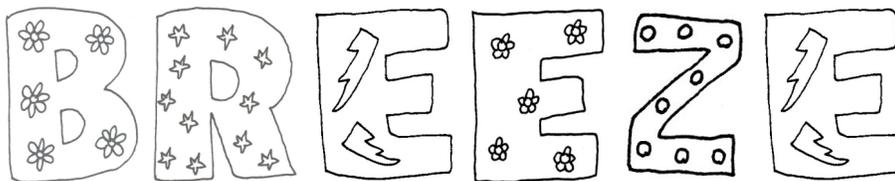
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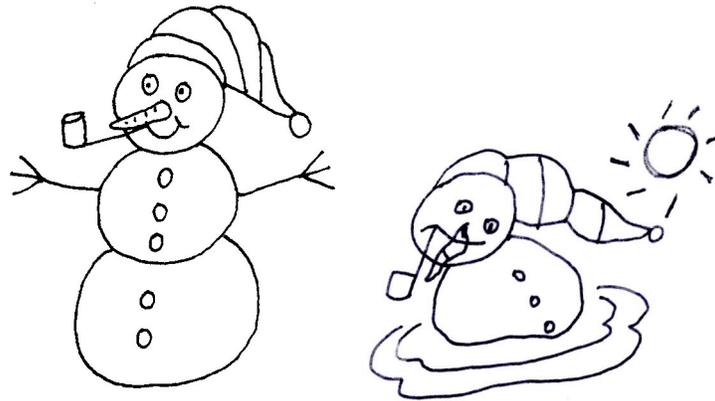
**There were three girls playing in leaves,  
When along came a brisk autumn breeze;  
The girls gave a shout,  
As they banded about,  
Dancing under the trees.**

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**TREES**

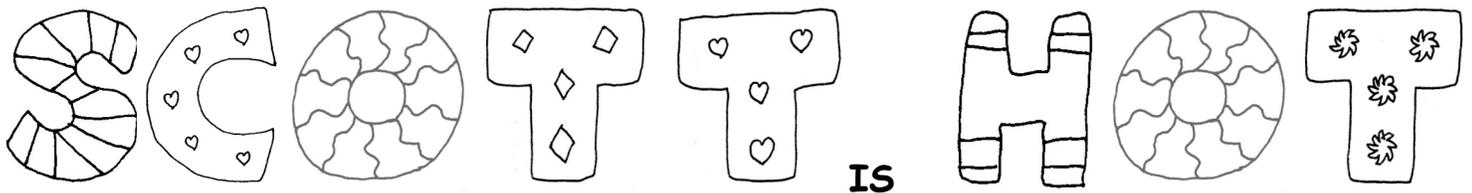
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**There was once a snowman named Scott,  
Who hated when it was hot;  
While having some fun,  
In the midday sun,  
He melted and now he is not!**

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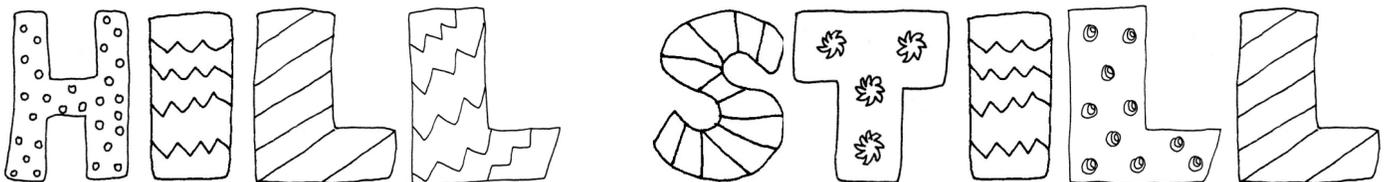
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There once was a man from Brazil,  
Who liked to climb the highest hill;  
He climbed high and wide,  
With the greatest of pride,  
And as far as I know, he climbs still.

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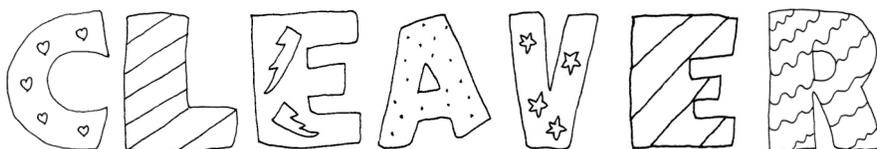
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There once was a clever old beaver,  
Whose teeth acted like a meat cleaver;  
He chomped and he chewed,  
Each branch he pursued,  
And built his dam like a pro weaver.

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