



## Poetry

A **Limerick** is a funny poem with a specific pattern of rhyme and meter. All limericks have five lines.



### Literary Elements

**Meter** is the rhythm of the syllables in a line of poetry.

**Rhyme Scheme** is the pattern of rhymes within a poem.

# Limericks

## A Whale of a Meal

There once was a whale named Alene  
Who strained all her meals through baleen.  
But she dreamed of a lunch  
With a food that goes “crunch”  
Like a truckload of just-picked string beans.

—Doreen Beauregard

## Whale Watch

The meter in these three lines is created by emphasizing the third, sixth, and ninth syllables.

Near our boat is a mammal named Lúke  
Who's exceedingly pród of his flúke.  
Just don't call it a tail  
Or this dignified whale  
Will respónd with a spláshy rebúke.

—Doreen Beauregard

## The Podless Whale

There once was a whale near Cape Cod  
 Who just could not locate his pod.  
 So he joined with a mass  
 Of bewildered sea bass  
 Who found this behavior quite odd.  
 —Doreen Beauregard

The last line of a limerick always rhymes with the first two lines. The second and third lines have a different rhyme.

### Connect and Compare



1. What is the rhyme scheme of “Whale Watch”? What if the last line rhymed with the third and fourth lines? **Rhyme Scheme**
2. Why were the sea bass in “The Podless Whale” bewildered? **Apply**
3. How are the whales in these poems similar to the ones in *Adelina’s Whales*? How are they different?

**Reading/Writing Across Texts**



Find out more about limericks at [www.macmillanmh.com](http://www.macmillanmh.com)

# Share Your Point of View

## Writer's Craft

### Voice

Writers want their readers to understand their point of view. They use appropriate words to show **voice** and to share their opinions.

## Why We Need Whales

by Maggie W.

We learned in class today that some kinds of whales are in danger of becoming extinct. I think we should try to save them. We need whales.

Why do we need whales? We don't need them for food. They don't do any work for us. But they are fascinating to watch. They seem to play and talk together. The world would be less interesting if there were no whales.

I want the world to be an interesting place, so I hope there will always be whales making their wonderful noises.



I think whales are great! I wrote this to express my point of view about whales.

I tried to show why I feel that whales are important.

## Your Turn

Write an article of one or two paragraphs to explain your point of view about the importance of animals. You may write about animals in general or one kind of animal in particular. State your opinion and give strong reasons for it. Save your strongest reason for last. Back up your reasons with examples. End by restating your opinion. Use the Writer's Checklist to check your writing.



### Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Did I explain my point of view clearly?
- Organization:** Did I state my opinion first and then give reasons to explain it? Did I save the strongest reason for last?
- Voice:** Is my **voice** clear as I write about the topic?
- Word Choice:** Did I choose words carefully?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did I vary the length of my sentences?
- Conventions:** Did I spell possessive pronouns correctly?