

Jumbled Poems and Limericks

Instructions

This activity used limericks I made up myself to incorporate letter and long vowel sounds we had been using in earlier classes. It is easily differentiated.
Print and laminate the word card sheets then cut up into individual words.

The word card sheets are available in a separate Excel file on www.skillsworkshop.org

Limericks

Demonstrate and discuss rhymes and rhyming words. Take a simple limerick such as the 'Man from Devises' and get the learners to hear the rhyme at the end of the lines. Identify that the rhyming words in a limerick form a particular rhyming pattern, i.e. *aabba* and a recognisable rhythm.

Get the class to choral read the limerick aloud and follow the rhythm/prosody.

Method 1

Divide learners into pairs or small groups and give each group one limerick with all the words assembled except for the last rhyming words.

The groups then have to read the limerick and decide which word goes at the end of each line, following the rhyming pattern discussed earlier.

Method 2

Divide learners into pairs or small groups ensuring every group has at least one word that each learner has a good chance of being able to read.

Nominate one strong learner or a tutor to be the limerick 'assembler'.

As each word is read out, the groups have to search their group of given words to see if they have it and pass the word to the assembler.

Warning: this can get quite boisterous and noisy - at least it did with my pre-Entry / Entry 1 class!

Poems:

We did a similar activity as per Method 2 with the poem and the nursery rhyme. The nursery rhyme was particularly popular with those learners who had young children: many already knew the rhymes by heart.

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There was an old man from Peru,
Whose eyes were amazingly blue.
This is not a lie.
They were just like the sky.
So what I am saying is true.

There was an old woman from Spain,
Who hated to travel by train.
So she got on a bike,
Saying, "This I quite like",
So I think I will do it again.

There once was a young boy from Tring,
Whose telephone never did ring.
No texts ever came
Addressed to his name,
So he never found out anything.

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A girl who did not like the rain,
Left England to live out in Spain,
As she hated to walk in the rain.
She thought life was a peach,
As she lazed on a beach,
And she never saw London again.

Twinkle, twinkle little star.
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle little star.
How I wonder what you are.

There was an old man of Peru,
Who dreamt he was kissing his shoe.
He woke in the night
In a terrible fright,
And found it was perfectly true.

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I wish that my room had a floor.
I don't care so much for a door.
But this walking around
Without touching the ground
Is getting to be quite a bore.

There was an old man from Peru
Whose eyes were amazingly blue.
His left foot was green
But not often seen
As he hid it inside of his shoe.

There was an old man from Peru,
Whose eyes were amazingly blue.
This is not a lie.
They were just like the sky
So what I am saying is true.