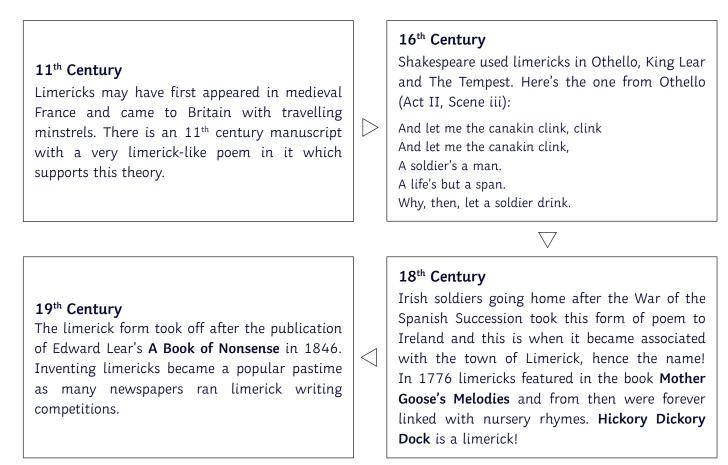
# **BBC Teach: Writing and Performance Poetry Live Lesson** – Laughable Limericks

Here's more information on limericks – a great way to start writing poetry; fun and short, the limerick is a type of poem anyone can handle!

## A Timeline of the Limerick



### How to Write a Limerick

Limericks have a fairly fixed form:

- five lines
- AABBA rhyme scheme, so lines 1, 2 and 5 rhyme and lines 3 and 4 rhyme.
- It has a lively rhythm called an anapestic meter which normally translates as 9 syllables in the first two lines, 6 in lines 3 and 4 and then back to 9 for the last line although this does vary.
- Most limericks start with 'There once was a ...... from.........' and the last line is often funny or quirky.

Most limericks are playful or silly and sometimes complete nonsense. Edward Lear wrote a whole book of limericks, here's one:

There was an Old Man who supposed,

That the street door was partially closed; But some very large rats,

Ate his coats and his hats,

While the futile old gentleman dozed.

### **Ideas for Limericks**

- your dog
- your favourite food
- your worst smell
- your craziest dream
- your school

#### Have a go:

Follow the rules above to write your own limerick – make it as silly as you like!