

GENERIC LIMERICKS

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In the August and November 2007 issues of Word Ways, we were entertained by a plethora of Limericks. Here, I offer a few more with a range of generic twists.

Homophonerick - what I call a Limerick in which the last words of lines 1, 2 and 5 sound the same but are spelt differently and have different meanings. Likewise lines 3 and 4. They are homophones.

The wannabee climber has a surreptitious peek.
Confronting him lies a truly massive peak.
It would be a feat.
But what of his feet?
'I'm not climbing that' he yells, in a fit of pique!

AZerick (or **alphomerick**) - a Limerick with 26 words which start with the letters of the alphabet in turn.

Andrew, Betty's caught Diana entertaining Fred.
Gosh, has Ivy just kissed Liam, manipulating Ned?
Oh, pulses quell.
Roy's secrets tell.
Ursula's vanished with Xavier, yesterday's Zed!

(Jeff Grant offers an 'alphabet Limerick' on page 215 of the August 2007 issue.)

Vocalerick - a special type of *limerick* (see page 305 of the November 2007 issue) in which the words of the first row all begin with A, those of the second row with E, the third row I, the fourth row O, and the fifth row U.

Acrostics, acronyms, alphomes and anagrams.
Enigmas, epitaphs, equivoques, epigrams.
Invariants, interlocks, insertions.
Onalosi, overlaps, oxymorons.
Universally using unsplittable unigrams.

Acrosterick - a Limerick in which the first letter of each line read together downwards, make a word. The 'word' in this case is ERICK, as befits the occasion.

Each line begins with a special letter.
Rigid rules apply for this puzzle setter.
I've unlocked the key,
Can't you see?
Kindly scrutinize - the sooner the better!

Homovocalerick -- a Limerick which uses just one of the five major vowels. Alternatively, they could, in turn, be called **A-ericks**, **E-ericks**, **I-ericks**, **O-ericks** and **U-ericks**!

A man, a plan, a canal, Panama.
A pal. that's art, a wacky star.
'Panda had nap'
And 'party trap'
Can't match '...a plan, a canal...' - nah!

She recklessly seeks the secret well.
When she's there, she enters hell.
Seventy feet deep,
The edges steep.
She heeded the well, then she fell!

Can readers construct an I-erick, O-erick and U-erick to complete the quintet?

Proverick - a Limerick constructed of proverbs. It is especially time-consuming constructing Limericks made solely of *well-known* proverbs.

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may.
Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.
Sooner begun,
Sooner done.
Where there's a will there's a way.

Early to bed and early to rise,
Makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.
An apple a day,
Keeps the doctor away.
Ask no questions and hear no lies.

Neither a borrower nor a lender be.
The best things in life are free.
Once bitten, twice shy.
Let sleeping dogs lie.
None so blind as those who cannot see.