

Return of the Magnificent Seven – as Palimericks

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Palimericks

Palimericks are limericks that are also examples of rhyming, end-to-end palindromes (RETEPs). Earlier articles on palimericks include the following:

- Jim Puder introduced the term palimerick and molded letter-unit palindromes into “coarse approximations of limericks” (*Word Ways*: Vol. 30, Iss. 4, Article 6, 1997);
- Dave Morice introduced word-unit examples and wondered whether letter-unit forms could be composed (Kickshaws, *Word Ways*: Vol. 40, Iss. 1, Article 18, 2007);
- Jim Puder presented some word-unit palimericks and four structurally related letter-unit examples (*Word Ways*: Vol. 40, Iss. 2, Article 24, 2007) and then a further letter-unit example (*Word Ways*: Vol. 43, Iss. 1, Article 10, 2010);
- more recently, Lori Wike has presented examples based on forms with one-letter units, two-letter units and word-units (*Word Ways*: Vol. 50, Iss. 4, Article 22, 2017).

One general suggestion proposed by Jim Puder is to re-work existing palindromes into RETEP form. Inspired by this tip, I have extended seven of the best known one-line palindromes into the letter-unit palimericks below.

Panama Palimerick

A man, a plan, acting I spar
No sin union, no Zeus bar
Go grab Suez on
No, in unison
Rap-sign it, canal, Panama.

Napoleon Palimerick

'Til Bonaparte's row atop nit
I saw Elba's eye, I dot it
Felt left, I, to die
Yes, able was I
Tin-pot, a worse trap, a nob lit.

Satanic Palimerick

A metallic sonata's too far
Often sit, ah, who room-sat a star?
Mum, rat sat as Moor
Oh, what is net for?
A foot, Satan oscillate Ma.

Salami Palimerick

Spa boner, a bi-part on maps
Go hang a salami, an apse
A "Viva Espana"
I'm a lasagna
Hog spam, no trap, I bare no baps.

Doc-note Palimerick

Doc note I dissent if I nod
No-parts remit, trap on no god
A madam, a dog on
No part-timer strap-on
Don I fitness, I diet on cod.

Rodent Palimerick

Rats live on no Del-bane cigar
To spite, manic, I gamed a jar
A bar, a jade magic
I name tip so tragic
Enabled on no evil star.

Madam Palimerick

Snub madam I'm Adam tap won
No burn I a jar on no guns
A test set, a snug on
No Raja in rub on
Now, pat madam, I'm Adam buns.

Top tip: a fun way to check the correct scanning of limericks is to try singing them to the tune of "Popeye the Sailor Man". Some of the above examples use a common limerick variation in which the third and fourth lines are abbreviated from six to five syllables. When singing, they require a short melismatic extension to the last syllable of these lines.

Original palindromes sources

A man, a plan, a canal - Panama, Leigh Mercer, published in "Notes and Queries", 13 November 1948, according to "The Yale Book of Quotations", ed. F. R. Shapiro, 2006.

Able was I ere I saw Elba, earliest known reference accredited to "J.T.R.," in "The Gazette of the Union Golden Rules and Odd-Fellow's Family Companion", Vol. IX, p 30, 1848; according to shannonselin.com.

Satan oscillate my metallic sonatas, from the rock group: Soundgarden's EP of the same name, A&M Records, released 23 June 1992.

Go hang a salami! I'm a lasagna hog! Jon Agee, "Go hang a salami! I'm a lasagna hog! and other palindromes", Jon Agee book, Sunburst edition, 1994.

Doc, note: I dissent. A fast never prevents a fatness. I diet on cod, Peter Hilton, as reported in an article in the Daily Telegraph, London, 10 November 2010.

Rats live on no evil star and *Madam, I'm Adam*, original sources not determined.