

Tea Time *Poetry*



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Welcome



Pour yourself a cup of tea, put your feet up, and let's have a little poetry tea party. Let me tell you a little secret. My kids hated poetry. I almost gave up trying to include poetry into our homeschooling. Then one day my daughter (who like me loves tea parties), asked if we could have a tea party at lunch. Now, who am I to turn down a tea party invitation? So I made a few PB & J sandwiches, removed the crusts and cut them into triangles. Then with a few English muffins, I made a few mini pizzas with some left over marina sauce we had. I sprinkled some cheese on top and baked them in the toaster oven. Joe helped me make some chocolate milk, and we poured it into my mom's china cups. I remembered Francesca had written a few poems about manatees the day before so I told her to bring them to the party. Then, I lit a candle, we sat down, and started eating our yummy tea sandwiches. Francesca recited her manatee poems, and Joe made up a few "roses are red, your feet stink" poems. They were having so much fun, I ran to the bookshelf and pulled out my favorite Shel Silverstein poetry book, *Where the Side Walk Ends*. I told them I didn't want to be left out so I read my favorite poem, "Smart."

Viola! Just like that! A new homeschooling tradition was born: Poetry Tea Time! After that serendipitous afternoon, each month I tried to plan an afternoon poetry tea party. But any day is a perfect day for a poetry tea party! You only need three ingredients: tea, treats, and some poetry. Halting the chaos of the week or pausing the hustle and bustle of the day for a restorative cup of tea (or mug of hot chocolate, cup of hot cider, or glass of lemonade) can create a perfect place for fun with rhymes, riddles, sonnets, and limericks. Pick a few flowers and put them in a vase. Play some classical music in the background. Light a candle. Pour a little tea in a china cup and read some of your favorite poetry. Better yet, have your children share original poems they have composed or recite poetry they have memorized. That's it! It can be a fancy high tea with china, cucumber sandwiches, and Shakespearean sonnets, a Japanese tea with sushi, mochi, and haiku poems, or a backyard tea with ants on a log celery stick, lemonade, and Shel Silverstein poems.

I compiled for you monthly poetry tea party ideas that are easy to plan (or can be done spontaneously). Each Tea Party Plan includes a theme, a recipe (or two), a few poetry book recommendations, a poetry template to create original poems, a game or fun poetry activity, and a bible verse or poet quote for copy work or inspiration. For more ideas on how to start your own Poetry Tea Time Party, listen to Coffee With Carrie Homeschool Podcast [Episode #93, "Poetry Tea Time"](#).

May the Lord bless your tea time for His glory,

— Carrie —
DE FRANCISCO



*"Be silly. Be honest. Be kind."
~Ralph Waldo Emerson*

Start your poetry tea time with a bang! Show your kiddos (especially your boys) that poetry and tea parties can be fun. This month's theme is Silly Tea Time or Backwards Tea Bash. Celebrate Opposite Day. Come to the tea party wearing your clothes backwards. Eat with your left hand (or with your toes). Eat while lying down instead of sitting straight up. Read silly poems. Recite silly poems. Create silly poems. Be silly. Be honest. Be kind.

Poetry Book Recommendations

- **Revolt Rhymes** by Roald Dahl
- **Where the Sidewalk Ends: Poems and Drawings** by Shel Silverstein
- **A Light in the Attic** by Shel Silverstein
- **Walking the Bridge of Your Nose: Wordplay Poems** by Michael Rosen
- **The Armpit of Doom: Funny Poems for Kids** by Kenn Nesbitt
- **The New Kid on the Block** by Jack Prelutsky
- **Wacky Wednesday** by Dr. Seuss
- Any book or poetry anthology by Silverstein, Dahl, Prelutsky, and Dr. Seuss

Poetry Activity

Read classic poetry using different voices.

- On separate index cards, write a variety of voice inflections and accents: "silly voice," "mad voice," "whisper," "British accent," "high pitch voice," "old man," "sleepy," etc.
- Take turns picking a card and then reading a poem from your favorite poetry book using that voice.

Watch YouTube animation videos of poems written by Silverstein, Dahl, and/or Prelutsky.



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Banana & Nutella Open Face Sandwiches

Go a little bananas and get a little nutty with these delicious tea sandwiches.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1-2 Bananas sliced
- Jar of Nutella (or favorite chocolate hazelnut spread)
- Bread

DIRECTIONS:

1. Spread Nutella on one slice of bread.
2. Add several banana slices on top.
3. Arrange them in a smily face if you like.

** Sprinkle with confection sugar or top with sliced strawberries.**



Compose Original Limericks

A Limerick is a 5-line poem with a rhyming pattern of AABBA. It is typically a funny short story about a person from a specific place. Each line usually has a specific number of syllables: The first two lines and last line have the same number of syllables. The third and fourth lines have a different number of syllables .

A	There was once a little girl from Rome (9 syllables)
A	Who got her hair tangled in a comb. (9 syllables)
B	She pulled, she yanked, she cried. (6 syllables)
B	Upset, she ran to hide. (6 syllables)
A	Lonely and tired, she went back home. (9 syllables)



LIMERICK PATTERN



**Limericks are nonsense poems with lots of puns and punch lines.
It is a five line poem with a A, A, B, B, A rhyme scheme**

TOPIC OR TITLE:

1ST LINE

8 Syllables

There once was a _____ from _____

2ND LINE

8 Syllables

3RD LINE

5 Syllables

4TH LINE

5 Syllables

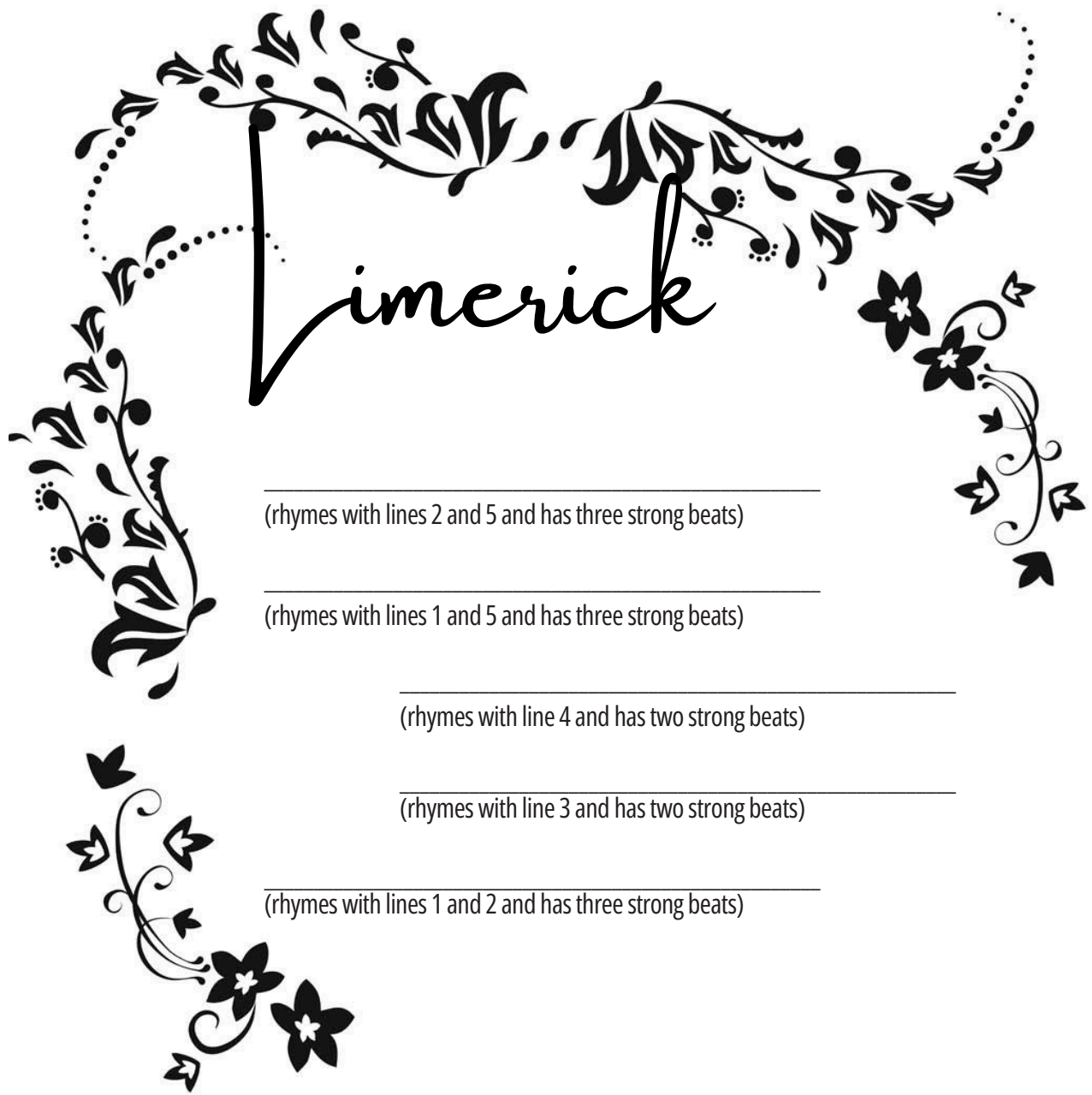
5TH LINE

8 Syllables



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(rhymes with lines 2 and 5 and has three strong beats)

(rhymes with lines 1 and 5 and has three strong beats)

(rhymes with line 4 and has two strong beats)

(rhymes with line 3 and has two strong beats)

(rhymes with lines 1 and 2 and has three strong beats)

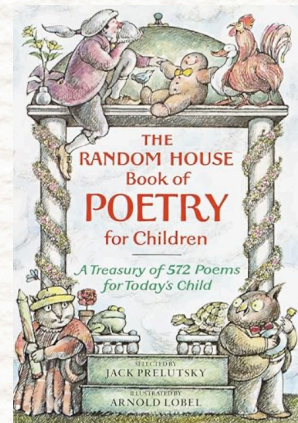
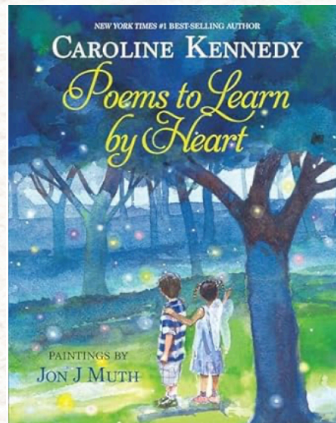
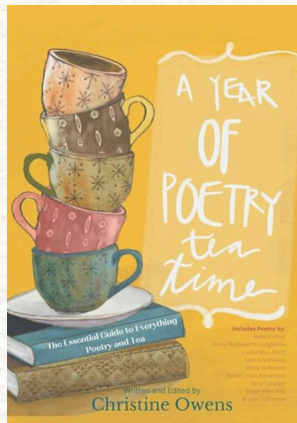
1. Choose a person and place to fill line 1.
2. Write a long list of words that rhyme with the place.
3. Think of a short silly happening or action that can fill line 2.
4. Think of a silly problem to continue the story and to fill lines 3 and 4.
5. Find a couple of words from your idea that are easy to rhyme with.
6. Write a long list of words that rhyme with those words.
7. Brainstorm ways to fill lines 3 and 4 so that they rhyme and have the same number of syllables each.
8. Think about how you can finish the short story using the same number of syllables as lines 1 and 2 and it rhymes with lines 1 and 2.



Recommendations

You do not need any particular books on hand to have a poetry tea party! However, if you do have some extra funds in your budget and some extra space on your book shelves, I highly recommend having these items in your home.

- **A Year of Poetry Tea Time: The Essential Guide to Everything Poetry and Tea** by Christine Lynn Owens
- **Poems to Learn by Heart** by Caroline Kennedy
- **The Random House Book of Poetry for Children** by Jack Prelutsky



Tea Party Hacks

You can turn any lunch or backyard picnic into a tea party!

- Cut the crust off of any ordinary sandwich and slice it into triangles or rectangles.
- Use a cookie cutter to turn sliced fruit into fancy shapes.
- Coat grapes or blueberries with sugar or dip strawberries or bananas into melted chocolate.
- Pour any of your favorite drinks (lemonade, chocolate milk, iced tea, apple cider, etc) into tea cups.
- Add classical music in the background, a table cloth, and a lighted candle to elevate your lunch time.



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