

## Science Limerick Contest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This activity commemorates the many achievements of Ms. April Fools who, on April 1st in 1909, invented one of the world's all-time classic gags — the squirting flower.

Rules: Your entry must take the form of a *standard limerick*, that is:

1. Rhyme scheme = AABBA
2. Can be based on any 3-syllable metric foot (e.g., dactyl)
3. Consists of 5 lines: trimeter, trimeter, dimeter, dimeter, trimeter

Of course, as with any work of art, poetic license must balance structural rigidity. True artists push the envelope, take chances, and sometimes achieve a masterpiece.

Submit your entry typed and attached, or neatly printed in the box below. For this contest your limerick must incorporate correct, or obviously intentionally incorrect, science.

If you need motivation or inspiration, take a look at the next two pages. They contain student limerick entries from grades 10, 11, 12. There's a few gems, including one that took first place in a physics limerick contest. You'll see many students struggle to get the correct meter, so pay attention to that — it's an important component. Good limericks should "have a beat" like the four Anonymous classics on the last page.

There once was a man named Hubble,  
Whose instruments all did see double,  
So one day last fall,  
He bought glasses for all  
But his telescopes still had some trouble.

There once was an astronaut, Paul  
Who loved his freeze dried meatballs  
He was hurled into space  
At a 5 mile per second pace,  
Into a continuous freefall.

There once was a force called centripetal,  
Confounded sometimes with centrifugal.  
Now pull starts with "p";  
That might help you to see.  
("So does push", you may say, if you're cynical.)

There once was a girl named Linda  
Whose problem was an enigma  
She couldn't find "F"  
So she asked her friend Jeff  
He showed her the secret of  $\Sigma$

Sir Isaac was the man of motion,  
he discovered more than one potion.  
The three laws he did create,  
Considered mass versus weight,  
Very few could contradict his notion.

There once was a student named Dayne  
Who thought that Physics was a pain  
He studied very late  
Then he bombed chapter eight  
Now he feels he can no longer remain

Driving in Phoenix in my Blazer,  
Like a flash someone shot a laser.  
The good old days,  
Just guns, no rays.  
If only I had my star phaser!

Thanks to the theory of Stephen Hawking  
Thousands of people gathered gawking  
A genius found his niche  
Throwing the anti-gravity switch  
Now a reality, floating, rather than walking

It was before the time of Romantica  
When Isaac, Professor Mathematica  
Said with a frown  
That apple fell down  
Then published his tome Principia

An astronaut orbiting 'round,  
Worried, did radio the ground:  
"Did you account for air friction?"  
But they replied with clear diction,  
"OOPS!" He came tumbling down.

The Earth goes around the Sun  
Ptolemy argued this fun  
He claimed the Earth was in the middle  
We now know he was playing the fiddle  
It turns out heliocentrism is the one

The amazing effects of the tide:  
Land becomes the sea's bride.  
The soundtrack's a joke,  
The land it did soak,  
And the cow had a wonderful ride.

There once was a boy with a notion,  
Who jumped in a boat on the ocean.  
If he jumped up in front  
He'd go back with this stunt  
'Sept his reference frame was in motion.

There once was a girl named Janet  
Who wanted to see a planet  
So she built a telescope  
that unfortunately broke  
now all she could say was damit!

There once was a genius named Newton  
Whose ideas were called highfalutin'  
But without T.I. in his hand  
He wrote equations so grand  
About the motion of objects and what moves them.

Copernicus, Kepler and Brahe  
Each saw the sky in his own way.  
Without a good telescope,  
They had no hope  
Of revealing God's most puzzling play.

Young Archie, the intrepid mole,  
Went down to explore a Black Hole.  
But a stark singularity,  
Devoid of all charity,  
Devoured the mole as a whole.  
— Anonymous classic

Oh Langley devised the bolometer,  
It's really a kind of thermometer  
That can measure the heat  
From a polar bear's feet  
At a distance of half a kilometer.  
— Anonymous classic

There was a young lady named Bright  
Who could travel far faster than light.  
She departed one day,  
In a relative way,  
And returned on the previous night.  
— Anonymous classic

There once was a student name Patrick  
Whose driving was somewhat fantastic.  
He lost all his p  
When hitting a tree.  
The collision was most inelastic.  
— Douglas Alexander, winner of the 1987 Physics Teacher magazine Limerick Contest