

Creative Writing



Trinity College
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Aim of the workshop

- **To enable you to practise writing creatively**



Objectives

- **To write two short pieces each using the senses**
- **To identify what you like in the written work of other participants**
- **To write a Limerick each**



Workshop 1 - Overview

- **Your unique ‘materials’ for writing**
- **Exercise 1: ‘I come from...**
- **Exercise 2: Descriptive writing in response to a photo you have taken in Dublin**
- **Exercise 3: Writing a Limerick each**
- **Useful web links**

Your unique 'materials'

- **Your experiences**
- **Memories and personal history**
- **Your feelings and desires**
- **Language**
- **Imagination**
- **Dreams**
- **Culture**
- **Observations**
- **Ideas**
- **Your senses**



Exercise 1: 'I come from...

We Are Poets – Trailer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA_DevFgSWM

Write where you are from. Focus on sights, sounds, touch and smells.

Exercise 2: Dublin photo

Describe what you can see in your photo.

Identify the main subject of the image. Focus then on the foreground, centre, background, left and right.

Refer to the following:

- **People, creatures, body language, facial expressions**
- **Setting and objects**
- **Colour**

Limericks

What is a limerick?

**A five line witty poem with the
rhyme scheme AABBA.**

Limericks

Where does the name ‘limerick’ come from?

It comes from an old drinking song that required everyone taking part to make up their own verse, one person after another. Each verse was five lines with an AABBA rhyme scheme. In between the verses, the entire group would sing the chorus, “Will you come up to Limerick?”

Limericks by Edward Lear

**There was an Old Man who said, 'Hush!
I perceive a young bird in this bush!'
When they said, 'Is it small?'
He replied, 'Not at all!
It is four times as big as the bush!'**

**There once lived a boy called Joe
Who developed an enormous big toe,
On it there sat
A contented cat,
A granny, a toad and a crow.**

Limericks

- **Limericks are short, funny poems made up of five lines. They have a regular rhythm or beat.**
- **Limericks always have the rhyme scheme: AABBA.**
- **The first, second and fifth lines must have seven to ten syllables.**
- **The third and fourth lines have five to seven syllables.**

Limericks by Edward Lear

**A gambler from old Alberqueque
Won millions consulting a turkey,
'I've won every bet
With this mysterious pet
Which I admit does make me sound quirky.'**

**There was an Old Person of Dover,
Who rushed through a field of blue Clover;
But some very large bees,
Stung his nose and his knees,
So he very soon went back to Dover.**

<http://www.nonsenselit.org/Lear/BoN/bon010.html>

Complete this Limerick

There was a young lady from Leeds,

Who swallowed a packet of seeds.

This sorry young lass,

Is now covered in _____ ,

But has all the carrots she _____ .

A Limerick a Day by John Moynes

A statue called Molly Malone,

**On Facebook just cannot be shown,
They reckon her chest,
Which ranks with the best,
Is something they will not condone.**



***condone = tolerate or ignore**

<http://www.broadsheet.ie/tag/a-limerick-a-day-john-moynes/>

A Limerick a Day by John Moynes

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un has gained 38 kilograms since taking power in 2012.

**Some comrades have noticed of late
That our leader is putting on weight
We're forced to conclude
That there's plenty of food
In that fertile and bountiful state.**



Exercise 3: Limericks

Write your own Limerick. It can be about a current issue. Include a character and a place name from the following lists:

Names: Paddy, Joe, Mick, Tom, Maggie, Mary, Anne or Annie

Irish place names: Schull, Muff, Nobber, Kill, Trim, Birr, Moneygold, Termonfeckin, Hospital, Knock, Stoneybatter, Cong, Ballydehob

Use www.oxfordreference.com (New Oxford Rhyming Dictionary) OR www.rhymezone.com

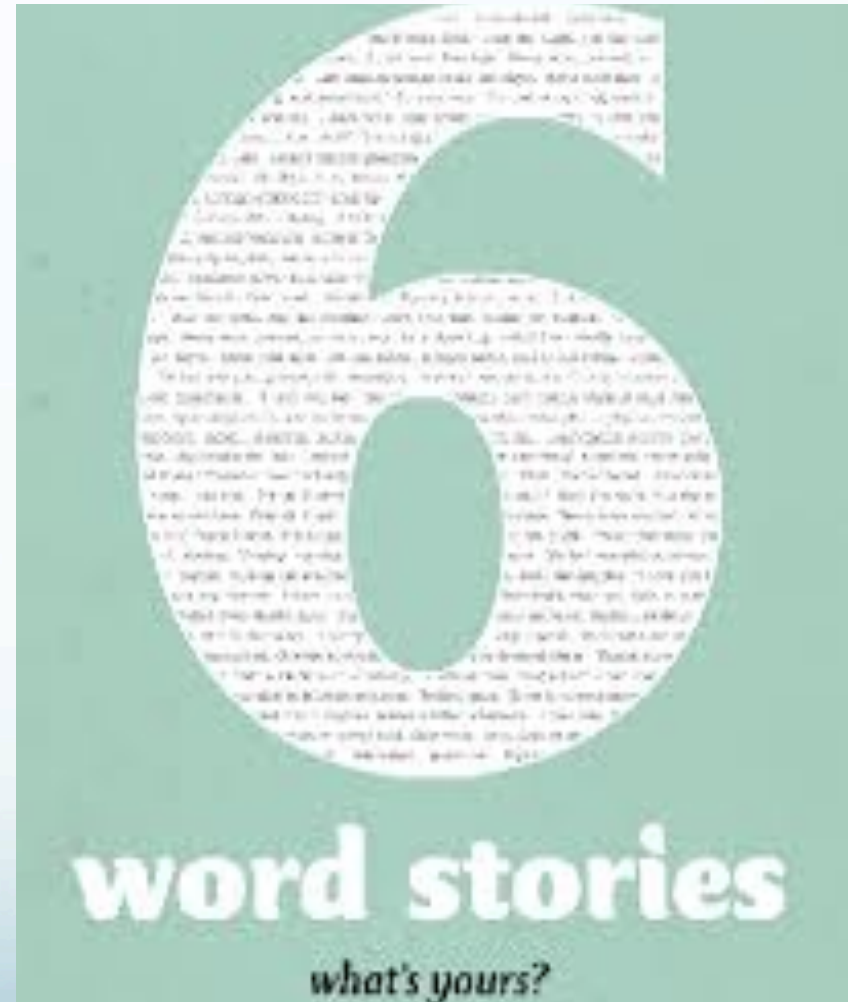
Six-word stories

**Use six words to tell a story.
No more, no less.**

**‘For sale: baby shoes, never
worn.’**

Ernest Hemingway

**Visit @sixwordstories on
Twitter for hundreds of
examples.**



Six-word stories

1. Lost in wilderness, he found himself.
2. Spark is gone, but she isn't.
3. Flat tyre. Flight missed. Air crash.
4. "I love you." Missent text message.
5. Unwanted boy grows into wanted man.
6. Best friends. Circumstances change. Worst enemies.
7. Left handed woman finds Mr. Right.

Useful web links

<http://bit.ly/1eLyXUe>

<http://www.creative-writing-now.com>

<https://storybird.com>

<http://bit.ly/1eLpa0u> (Storify via Twitter)