

Limerick Competition: Winning Entries

There were in total 16 entries, all of a **breathtakingly high standard**. The judges had a really difficult time deciding on the winning entry in each category. All the entries deserve a prize but, unfortunately, a choice had to be made. So, below are the winning entries.

Congratulations and thanks to all who entered the competition.

(1) Richardson's Forecast Factory

Write a limerick describing **Richardson's Forecast Factory**, with the 64,000 (human) computers busily calculating tomorrow's weather.

PRIZE: Book, *The Emergence of Numerical Weather Prediction: Richardson's Dream*, by Peter Lynch.

Winner: Brett Hoover.

Richardson's Forecast Factory

Lewis's factory's in panic
Their jobs are just like the Titanic
It turns out a computer
Can forecast much sooner
For the price of a single mechanic.

Citation: The committee was deeply impressed by the profound sociological insight manifested in this entry, and by the subtle handling of the technological minutiae.

(2) Galileo

Write a limerick about **Galileo**. One of the long lines must end with the name "Galileo". You will have to find appropriate rhymes for this.

PRIZE: A Galileo thermometer.

Winners: John Methven, Nick Dunstone, Stephen Pring, Kirsten Kober, Martin Deshaies-Jacques, Melanie Ades, Lucinda Rasmijn, Bert van Schaeybroeck.

Galileo

Galileo improved the telescope
But his mind was clouded with dope.
He thought it would be fun
To look at the Sun.
Idiot! For a man with so much scope.

Citation: This contribution sheds totally new light on the life and influence of a true giant of science. As a result, historians will be driven back to the drawing board for a complete reassessment of the development of human knowledge.

(3) Banff, Alberta

Write a limerick about **BIRS**, the Banff International Research Station, or the **Banff Centre**. One of the lines **must** end in “Alberta” or “Banff” (if you can find things to rhyme with “Banff” you will get extra credit).

PRIZE: Book, *Rambling Round Ireland: a Commodius Vicus of Recirculation*, by Peter Lynch.

Winner: Yunji Zhang.

Banff

Among the forest mountains it stands,
In the chilly morning fogs it fades,
Wandering in this land of elf,
Appearing National Park of Banff,
Eden of all lives and above Gods.

Citation: This contribution expands the limits of the limerick form by its courageous disregard of stuffy convention. The language of this poem is subtle, evocative and moving.

Final note: Although **Dale Durran** was not eligible for a prize (only students qualified) he deserves a special acknowledgement for his audacious genius in rhyming DAMTP with Banff. Wow!

*Peter Lynch,
15 July, 2011*

On behalf of ILAC (the International Limerick Assessment Committee)