**Poetry week** 

**The history of Poetry**

**Poetry as an art form itself pre dates literacy. The earliest poetry is believed to have been recited or sung, employed as a way of remembering history, ancestors, family members and law.**

**Poetry is often closely related to musical traditions, with the earliest poetry existing in the form of hymns. Many poems surviving from the ancient world are recorded prayers, or stories about religious subject matter, however they also include historical accounts, instructions for everyday activities, love songs and fiction.**

**A rhythmic and repeated form would make a story easier to remember and retell.**

**Modern developments**

**The development of modern poetry is generally seen as having started at the beginning of the 20th century and the use of verse to transmit cultural information continues today. Many people from western culture know the alphabet song or the jingle that states the months and days in the Gregorian calendar.**

**Some believe poetry has its origins in song because of the use of rhythm, rhyme and intensity of feeling.**

**The invention of printing accelerated trends to become literate and poetry was at the forefront to become literate.**

**Lyric poetry**

**The development of literacy gave rise to more personal, shorter poems intended to be sung. These are called lyrics, derived from the Greek word** *lura* **(the instrument that was used to accompany the performance of Ancient Greek poetry, 7th century BC)**

**In more recent times, the introduction of electronic media and the rise of the poetry reading have led to a resurgence of performance poetry in the lyric genre.**

**Limericks**

**A form of poetry referred to as a Limerick poem have received incredibly bad press and dismissed as not having a rightful place amongst what is seen as ‘cultivated poetry’**

**The reason is probably because, the content is often in bad taste, and the form is short and simple and finally has a somewhat dubious history.**

**Limericks can be traced back to the 14th century, used in nursery rhymes and other poetry for children.**

**Limericks are short, relatively easy to compose and rowdy or of a sexual nature, they were often repeated by beggars or the working classes in the pubs and taverns of the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries. The poets who often created these limericks were often drunkards.**

**The term ‘Limerick’ comes from the Irish town of Limerick. Apparently a pub song in the town that was often sung had a chorus line “Will you come up to Limerick?” where, of course, such bawdy songs or ‘Limericks’ were sung.**

**Questions**

**From the above text can you find the answers to these questions?**

1. **What does poetry pre-date……………………………………………………………..**
2. **What was poetry employed to do…………………………………………………….**
3. **Why are poems rhythmic & repeated……………………………………………….**
4. **What century was modern poetry…………………………………………………….**
5. **What invention accelerated poetry…………………………………………………..**
6. **Lyric is derived from what Greek word……………………………………………..**
7. **What does the word mean……………………………………………………………….**
8. **What is a Limerick……………………………………………………………………………..**
9. **Which country is Limerick in………………………………………………………………**
10. **Why are Limericks frowned upon……………………………………………………..**