



# Limeroons | If Only ... | Madtail, Miniwhale and other shape poems | The Kingfisher Book of Comic Verse

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News & Choice:

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

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I've grouped these books of verse together because they comprise one of the most enjoyable elements of my recent reading.

**Limeroons** is the lightest of the four. Noel Ford revitalises the overworked limerick formula by populating his book with a menagerie of outlandish animals caught up in bizarre predicaments. The portmanteau word title refers to both the verses and their amusing illustrations.

Each poem in Richard Edwards' enjoyable book starts with the word 'If', and, imitating a daydream, meanders off into a rhythmic and rhyming little fantasy:

*'If I were an explorer  
I'd reach that far off land  
Called Jumbledup, where  
sand was sea  
And sea was made of sand,  
Where snow fell every  
summer  
On herds of grazing bees  
And cows flew round the  
blossom  
Of the orange apple trees.'*

Alison Claire Darke's whimsical dreamscapes provide a charming visual counterpoint.

**Madtail, Miniwhale** is a fascinating collection of shape poems, each one demonstrating in a different way how typographical artistry can combine with wordplay to create a striking piece of pictorial literature.

**The Kingfisher Book of Comic Verse** is a practically inexhaustible treasure chest of the ludicrous. The book is crammed with over 200 poems, ranging from Lewis Carroll's 'Strange Wild Song', a favourite with my Class 3 kids, to Wendy Cope's brilliant send-up of Peter and Jane (which should be required reading on any primary education course).

All these books represent excellent value for money. The kids loved them and revisited them devotedly. Warmly recommended to readers of all ages.

Running Order:

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**Links:**

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