***Limericks***

Directions: For each of the example limericks, identify the stressed/unstressed pattern in the syllables, as well as any other patterns you see.

Example 1

In the future, the worst kind of crime,  
Will be working the streets as a mime,  
If you paint your face white,  
They'll arrest you on sight,  
An example of justice sublime.

Example 2:

There was an Old Man of the Isles,  
Whose face was pervaded with smiles,  
He'd sung high dum diddle,  
And played on the fiddle,  
That amiable man of the Isles.

What patterns do you see?

1. The rhyme scheme is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of syllables for each line:
3. The rhythm pattern is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A woodpecker breeder named Finn,  
Built a hatchery made out of tin,  
When the chicks reached two weeks,  
They went wild with their beaks,  
And the breeder went deaf from the din.

Twas a crazy old man called O'Keef   
Who caused local farmers much grief   
To their cows he would run   
Cut their legs off for fun   
And say "Look, I've invented ground beef!"

The trailing unstressed syllable

While traditional limericks had exactly 9, 9, 6, 6, and 9 syllables, a more modern approach lets you use something called the trailing unstressed syllable. You use this extra syllable at the end of the line, so you can use longer words.

1. An inventor who came from Zimbabwe,
2. A free-thinking woman named Donna,
3. He's a true narcoleptic,  
   And if you are a skeptic,

Try some of your own: Make sure you label the stressed and unstressed syllables.

(9)

(9)

(6)

(6)

(9)

(9)

(9)

(6)

(6)

(9)