

Sounds of Words: Rhyme and Repetition

Rhyming Basics

- The basic definition of rhyme is two words that sound alike.
- Different **beginning** sounds, **same** endings
 - Rhyme, mime, lime, chime, time, dime...
 - Double and Triple rhymes rhyme the last **two** or **three** syllables accordingly
 - Scenery, greenery, machinery

Why Rhyme?

- We like how it sounds!
- Rhyming works to help **link** one concept or idea to another. Creates **unity**
- For example, two rhyming lines (a **couplet**) are likely linked thematically (theme = what the poem is saying).
- Sometimes rhyme shows a willingness to structure a subject which is otherwise seen as chaotic.
 - e.g. may be a topic about a divorce or natural disaster, war etc.

Kinds of Rhyme:

- **True or perfect:** bear/care
- **Slant or half:** final consonant sounds are the same.
 - Rat, blot
- **Near:** final vowel sounds the same, consonants different.
Poem/goin'
- **Internal:** occurs in the middle of the poem instead of at the usual end of the line.
*"The trees sharp yellow is softer **now**/ the leaves fewer, and the **brow** of the hill"*
- **Sight:** words look similar, do not sound the same
 - Cough, enough

Rhyme Schemes

- The rhyme scheme is the **pattern of rhyme** between the lines of a poem or song.
- We use letters (alphabetical order) to denote the pattern (end rhymes only).

Jenny ate a frog --A

Jenny cried a lot--B

Jenny took a jog--A

Jenny was distraught.--B

Rhyme schemes cont.

- Couplets are two rhyming lines ie) AA, BB, CC,
- Triplets are three rhyming lines ie) AAA
- Limerick: AABBA:

There once was a sandwich with mayo
and lettuce and bright red tomato.
Though tasty and fine
it was missing some swine,
with bacon it made me say, "Hey-O!"

Shakespearean Sonnet:

- Three quatrains with alternating rhyme
 - abab
 - cdcd
 - efef
- And one rhyming couplet
 - gg

Repetition of Sound

- *Alliteration, Assonance and Consonance also act on the ear as an appealing repetition of sound.*
- Alliteration: repeated **consonant** sounds at the **beginning** of words: dream deferred; fast and furious
- Assonance: repeated vowel sounds placed near each other: Andrew's ascot amazed Allison

Repetition of Sound cont.

- Consonance two ways:
 - Repeated consonant sounds at the **ends** of words
 - eastʔ/westʔ; hidʔ/bedʔ
 - The repetition of consonant sounds **before** and **after** differing vowels
 - Flip/flop; feel/fill

(Consonance is different from alliteration!)

Other sound devices:

- Onomatopoeia: words that **sound** like their meanings: whiz, buzz, hiss, sizzle
- Cacophony: **discordant** series of **harsh**, unpleasant sounds. Helps to convey **disorder**:
 - “The buzz-saw snarled and rattled in the yard/And made dust and dropped stove-length sticks of wood”
- Euphony: a series of **musically pleasant** sounds. Conveys a sense of **harmony** and beauty.
 - “to silver for a seam...leap splashless as they swim”

In the Photograph Poem Assign

- Following the criteria on your handout, create an “In the Photograph” poem with one of the following 4 pictures.
- Your poem must be a minimum of 14 lines (2 per stanza).
- It must incorporate 4 DIFFERENT sound devices (rhyme, alliteration, assonance, euphony, cacophony, onomatopoeia etc.)
- You must have EITHER one simile or two metaphors (this is a minimum—you can always do more 😊)
- Your poem should relate to your photograph.

