

## Rhyme

**Rhyme** is a repetition of sounds at the end of words. Words rhyme when their accented vowels and all the letters that follow have identical sounds. For example, “talk” and “walk” rhyme. **End rhyme** is rhyme that occurs at the end of a line of poetry. The end rhyme forms a pattern or **rhyme scheme** which can be charted. **Internal rhyme** is rhyme that occurs within the same line of poetry.

**Directions:** Read the poem. Use a colored pencil to underline the END RHYME. Chart the pattern of the end rhyme using letters for each of the rhyming sounds. Choose a different colored pencil to underline the INTERNAL rhyme.

### O Captain! My Captain!

by Walt Whitman



- <sup>1</sup> O Captain my Captain! our fearful trip is done,  
The ship has weathered every rack, the prize we sought is won,  
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting,  
While follow eyes the steady keel, the vessel grim and daring;  
<sup>5</sup> But O heart! heart! heart!  
O the bleeding drops of red,  
Where on the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.

Walt  
Whitman  
wrote this  
poem upon  
hearing of the  
assassination  
of President  
Abraham  
Lincoln.

- O Captain! my Captain! rise up and hear the bells;  
<sup>10</sup> Rise up--for you the flag is flung for you the bugle trills,  
For you bouquets and ribboned wreaths for you the shores a-crowding,  
For you they call, the swaying mass, their eager faces turning;  
Here Captain! dear father!  
This arm beneath your head!  
<sup>15</sup> It is some dream that on the deck,  
You've fallen cold and dead.

- My Captain does not answer, his lips are pale and still;  
My father does not feel my arm, he has no pulse nor will;  
The ship is anchored safe and sound, its voyage closed and done  
<sup>20</sup> From fearful trip the victor ship comes in with object won;  
Exult O shores, and ring O bells!  
But I, with mournful tread,  
Walk the deck my Captain lies,  
Fallen cold and dead.

**Thinking about the poetic device:** If poetry is meant to be read aloud, how does rhyme appeal to the listener?