

■ RHYME

I'm a lean dog, a keen dog, a wild dog and
lone;

I'm a rough dog, a tough dog, hunting on
my own;

I'm a bad dog, a mad dog, teasing silly
sheep;

I love to sit and bay the moon, to keep fat
souls from sleep.

5 I'll never be a lap dog, licking dirty feet,
A sleek dog, a meek dog, cringing for my
meat;

Not for me the fireside, the well-filled plate,
But shut door, and sharp stone, and cuff and
kick and hate.

Irene Rutherford McLeod
from "Lone Dog"

In the first stanza of "Lone Dog," which words at the ends of lines rhyme? Which words rhyme in the second stanza?

In poetry, this device of ending two or more lines with words that sound alike is called *end rhyming*; end words that share a particular sound are *end rhymes*.

When used in a poem, end rhymes set up a pattern of sounds, or a *rhyme scheme*. You can chart a rhyme scheme with letters of the alphabet by using the same letter for end words that rhyme. Consider, for example, the following limerick:

There was an old man from Peru *a*
Who dreamed he was eating his shoe. *a*
He awoke in the night *b*
And turned on the light *b*
And found out it was perfectly true. *a*

The rhyme scheme for this limerick is *a* (the sound ending line 1); *a* (a sound

rhyming with line 1); *b* (a new, or second rhyming sound); *b* (a sound rhyming with the second sound); *a* (a rhyme for the first sound).

If the limerick had a third rhyming sound, it would be designated by the letter *c*. A fourth rhyme would be labeled *d*, and so on. By using this method, you can chart the rhyme scheme of any poem that uses end rhymes.

1. Make a chart of the rhyme scheme for a stanza of McLeod's "Lone Dog."
2. Reread the first line of "Lone Dog." Which words *within* the line rhyme?

Rhyming words within a line are called *internal rhymes*. Find at least three internal rhymes in "Lone Dog."

In a second type of internal rhyme, a word within a line rhymes with the end word:

For the moon never *beams* without bringing me
dreams

Of the beautiful Annabel Lee

Edgar Allan Poe
from "Annabel Lee"

Can you find any internal rhymes of this type in "Lone Dog"?

■ RHYME

The repetition of syllable sounds. End words that share a sound are called *end rhymes*. Rhyming words within a line of poetry are called *internal rhymes*.

"Lone Dog" from *Songs to Save a Soul* by Irene Rutherford McLeod. Copyright 1915 by Irene Rutherford McLeod. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Viking Penguin Inc.

■ Apply to "Concord Hymn" on page 282

Concord Hymn

By the rude bridge that arched the flood,
Their flag to April's breeze unfurled;
Here once the embattled farmers stood;
And fired the shot heard round the world.

The foe long since in silence slept;
Alike the conqueror silent sleeps,
And Time the ruined bridge has swept
Down the dark stream that seaward creeps.

On this green bank, by this soft stream,
We place with joy a votive stone,
That memory may their deeds redeem,
When, like our sires, our sons are gone.

O Thou who made those heroes dare
To die, and leave their children free, --
Bid Time and Nature gently spare
The shaft we raised to them and Thee.

The "**Concord Hymn**" is a song written by Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1837 for the dedication of the Obelisk, a battle monument in Concord, Massachusetts that commemorated the contributions of area citizens at the Battle of Lexington and Concord (April 19, 1775), the first battle of the American Revolution sparked by Shot heard 'round the world. It is now better known as a poem.

The first stanza is inscribed at the base of *The Minute Man* statue by Daniel Chester French

Emerson's "Concord Hymn" remains a piece of literature that can ring through the hearts and minds of visitors who travel to the North Bridge battlefield. One source of its power may be the author's personal ties to the subject. Emerson's grandfather was at the bridge on the day of the battle; their family home, The Old Manse, is next to the bridge; and Emerson is known to have written the hymn while living there.

In 1837, the hymn was sung to the tune "Old Hundredth" during Concord's 4th of July celebration.

Name _____

Class _____

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Concord Hymn

by Ralph Waldo Emerson

This poem, originally a song, celebrates the fight for freedom by an earlier generation.

1. Read the poem. In which lines is rhyme achieved through spelling rather than sound? Identify lines and the words.

2. In line 4, what does the speaker mean by "the shot heard round the world"?

3. In lines 5 and 6, what can we assume has happened to the foe and to the conqueror?

4. In line 13, what other words besides *spirit* might be used to describe the motivations of the heroes when they "dared to die"?

5. What emotions do you think the speaker wishes to arouse in the reader?

6. Why is a stone monument an appropriate way of honoring a noble deed or a person's memory?

The Hunter

by Ogden Nash

The hunter crouches in his blind
Neath camouflage of every kind
And conjures up a quacking noise
To lend allure to his decoys
This grown-up man, with pluck and luck
is hoping to outwit a duck

Name _____

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Date _____

The Hunter

by Ogden Nash

1. Read the entire poem. Ogden Nash is poking fun at the hunter. What does he find funny about the situation in the poem?

2. Quote the lines from the poem that show how the poet feels about the hunter.

3. Define the words below as they are used in the poem.

crouch: _____ blind: _____ camouflage: _____

conjure: _____ allure: _____ pluck: _____

4. Describe four strategies the hunter uses in hopes of outwitting the duck.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

Under the Mistletoe

by Countee Cullen

I did not know she'd take it so,
Or else I'd never dared;
Although the bliss was worth the blow,
I did not know she'd take it so.
She stood beneath the mistletoe
So long I thought she cared;
I did not know she'd take it so,
Or else I'd never dared.

Name _____

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Under the Mistletoe

by Countee Cullen

1. Read the title of the poem. What custom is usually observed when a person stands under mistletoe?

2. Read the entire poem. Who gave a blow and who received one?

3. What is the misunderstanding described in the poem? Describe her side and his side.

4. What do you think the poet means by "the bliss was worth the blow"?

5. Quote the phrase that is repeated three times in the poem. Why do you think Cullen repeats this one line so often?

Rebecca, Who Slammed Doors for Fun and Perished Miserably

From the book *Cautionary Tales for Children*

A trick that everyone abhors
In little girls is slamming doors.
A wealthy banker's little daughter
Who lived in Palace Green, Bayswater
(By name Rebecca Offendort),
Was given to this furious sport.

She would deliberately go
And slam the door like billy-o!
To make her Uncle Jacob start.
She was not really bad at heart,
But only rather rude and wild;
She was an aggravating child...

It happened that a marble bust
Of Abraham was standing just
Above the door this little lamb
Had carefully prepared to slam,
And down it came! It knocked her flat!
It laid her out! She looked like that.

Her funeral sermon (which was long
And followed by a sacred song)
Mentioned her virtues, it is true,
But dwelt upon her vices too,
And showed the dreadful end of one
Who goes and slams the door for fun.

The children who were brought to hear
The awful tale from far and near
Were much impressed, and inly swore
They never more would slam the door,
— As often they had done before.

--Hillaire Belloc

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

Rebecca, Who Slammed Doors for Fun and Perished Miserably

by Hilaire Belloc

1. Read the title of the poem. The moral is hinted at in the title.
What do you think the moral might be?

2. Read the entire poem. What "furious sport" does Rebecca engage in?

3. What kills Rebecca?

4. How do the children at Rebecca's funeral react to the story of her death?

5. What is the rhyme scheme in the first stanza of the poem? (If you need help with your answer, look at the Handbook of Literary Terms in the back of your book.)

6. On a separate piece of paper, write a humorous poem about someone whose aggravating habit leads that person into trouble.