

Rhyme Schemes

Rhyming words are words that sound the same at the ends, such as cat / hat, or jumping / bumping.

When a poem has rhyming words at the **ends of lines**, these are called “end rhymes.” Here is an example of end rhyme:

My cat is nice.
My cat likes mice.

A “rhyme scheme” is a way of describing the pattern of **end rhymes** in a poem. Each new sound at the end of a line is given a letter, starting with “A,” then “B,” and so on. If an end sound repeats the end sound of an earlier line, it gets the same letter as the earlier line.

Here are three slightly different cat poems, each with a different rhyme scheme. The first is **AABB**, the second is **ABAB**, and the third is **ABCB**):

My cat is nice. **A**
My cat likes mice. **A**
My cat is fat. **B**
I like my cat. **B**

My cat is nice. **A**
My cat is fat. **B**
My cat likes mice. **A**
I like my cat. **B**

My cat is gray. **A**
My cat is fat. **B**
My cat is cute. **C**
I like my cat. **B**

Exercise:

1. Read the following poems by Kenn Nesbitt.
2. For each poem, identify the rhyme scheme and write it below the poem.

Mr. Brown the Circus Clown

Mr. Brown, the circus clown
puts his clothes on upside down.
He wears his hat upon his toes
and socks and shoes upon his nose.

Rhyme scheme: _____

My Penmanship is Pretty Bad

My penmanship is pretty bad.
My printing's plainly awful.
In truth, my writing looks so sad
it ought to be unlawful.

Rhyme scheme: _____

All My Great Excuses

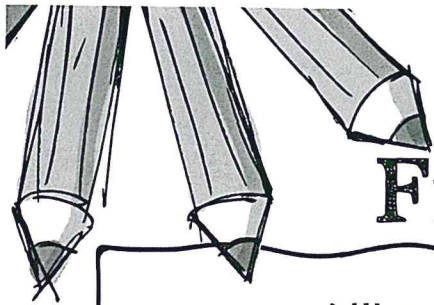
I started on my homework
but my pen ran out of ink.
My hamster ate my homework.
My computer's on the blink.

Rhyme scheme: _____

Today I Had a Rotten Day

Today I had a rotten day.
As I was coming in from play
I accidentally stubbed my toes
and tripped and fell and whacked my nose.

Rhyme scheme: _____



Figurative Language

Alliteration

Repeating the same beginning sound in more than two words.

Seven snakes slithered silently.
Crazy kangaroos kissed quietly.

Your own example:

Hyperbole

An obvious exaggeration.

The books were stacked to the sky.
I have told you a million times.

Your own example:



Metaphor

A comparison between two unlike things *without* using “like”, “as” or “than”.

Laughter is music of the soul.
His face was stone as she said she loved him.

Your own example:

Onomatopoeia

Words that sound like the object or actions they refer to.

The bells clanged and jingled.
Whoosh... the wind blew in and slammed the door.



Your own example:

Personification

Giving non-human objects human qualities.

The sun smiled on the angry clouds.
The t.v. talked all night.



Your own example:

Simile

A comparison of two unlike things using “like”, “as” or “than”.

The water was as smooth as glass.
Tim and his brother fought like cats and dogs.

Your own example: