

Rhyming Poetry

Have a look at this poem about a bear and see if you can spot the rhyme scheme.



A Big Bare Bear

A big bare bear
bought a bear balloon,
For a big bear trip
to the bare, bare moon.

A hairy bear
saw the bare bear fly,
On the big bear trip
in the bare, bare sky.

The hairy bear
took a jet up high,
To catch the bear
in the big bare sky.
The hairy bear
flew his jet right by,
The bear balloon
in the big bare sky.
He popped the balloon
with his hairy
thumb,
And the bare bear fell
on his big bum
bum.



By Robert Heidbreder

Poetry can rhyme in lots of different ways and patterns. A **rhyme scheme** is a way to describe the pattern of rhymes at the end of each line in a poem.

Each new sound at the end is given a letter 'A' then 'B' etc. If an end sound repeats the sound of an earlier line it gets the same letter as the earlier line.

Look at the different versions of this cat poem to help.

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 ginger	A
My cat is fat	B
My cat is sweet	C
I like my cat	B

1. Can you spot the rhyme scheme in the bare bear poem? _____
2. What three words does the poet use to rhyme with 'sky'?
a) _____ b) _____ c) _____
3. There is lots of alliteration in this poem, words next to or near each other that begin with the same letter or sound. How many words in the first line begin with the same letter? _____
4. Why do you think the poet describes the bear as 'bare'? _____

5. What two other things does the poet describe as bare in the poem?

a)

b)

6. How many syllables are there in the line - (The hairy bear popped the balloon) **'with his hairy thumb'**?

7. Why do you think the poet said the bare bear fell 'on his big bum bum' and not 'on his big bum'?

8. Look at these next two poems and see if you can see their rhyme scheme.

Caspar the Cat

Caspar the cat,
Lives in a flat,
And he hates to get his fur soggy.
When he's caught in a shower,
He turns very sour,
And then he's a bad-tempered moggy!

By Valerie McCarthy

Gogo Cat

Gogo cat has an orange coat
He also wears black wellies,
He lost his thermal underwear
So now he borrows Nelly's.

Gogo cat has a bath each night
He dives into the basin,
We keep a saucer full of milk
For him to wash his face in.

By John Rice

Our final poem is by Robert Louis Stevenson and is a perfect example of both rhyme and rhythm being used together to illustrate the exhilaration and speed of a railway train journey.

Whilst the rhythm of the poem's lines, are regular and steady, the view from the train window is constantly changing. Look at the rhyme scheme for this poem and see how many changes there are.

From A Railway Carriage

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;
And charging along like troops in a battle
All through the meadows the horses and cattle:
All of the sights of the hill and the plain
Fly as thick as driving rain;
And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
Painted stations whistle by.
Here is a child who clambers and scrambles,
All by himself and gathering brambles;
Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;
And here is the green for stringing the daisies!
Here is a cart runaway in the road
Lumping along with man and load;
And here is a mill, and there is a river:
Each a glimpse and gone forever!

By Robert Louis Stevenson



Answers

1. A A, B B, B B, B B, C C.

2. a) fly b) high c) by

3. 6

4. He has no clothes on.

5. a) bare moon b) bare sky

6. 5

7. 'on his big bum bum' has 5 syllables like the line above that it is rhyming with. If he only used the word bum once it wouldn't have the correct rhythm.

8. A A, B C, C B and ABCB, ABCB