

RHYME

Rhyme is very important in poetry – it can reinforce the rhythm pattern, and if it is very obvious, can create a song-like feel to the poem. In fact, when reading some poems aloud, you have to be careful not to fall into a sing-song pattern.

Every lady in the land
Has twenty nails upon each hand
Five and twenty on hands and feet
All this is true without deceit.*

Rhyme can create intricate patterns in a poem, like a pattern on an oriental rug, and because of this, can link ideas together, or suggest a new thought.

And here we see the invisible boy
In his lovely invisible house,
Feeding a piece of invisible cheese
To a little invisible mouse.
Oh, what a beautiful picture to see!
Will you draw an invisible picture for me?
Shel Silverstein



Because of this, some poets use rhyme sparingly, so that serious poems don't end up sounding like nursery rhymes.

Rhyme usually depends on the sound of the words rather than their spelling, so that drought, doubt and spout all rhyme even though they are spelled differently.

Beware of *heard*, a dreadful word
That looks like *beard* and sounds like *bird*,
And *dead*: It's said like *bed* not *bead* -
For goodness sake, don't call it *deed*!

Create banks of rhyming words. Over several days, clip from the *your newspaper* headlines words that rhyme and paste them in the appropriate boxes below. You may find them a useful reference as you write your own poetry.

-ight	-ear	-oo	-ough	-ie	-our
right	pear	book	bough	lie	colour

In the spaces below, paste words that are written in a similar fashion, but are pronounced differently.

freight	rear	spook	cough	Nellie	flour

* Punctuation is important to this poem – add a colon, comma and semi-colon

Jennifer Hind, "Rhyme," *The Royal Gazette*, Bermuda, 2003.