

## LESSON NOTE ON LITERATURE-IN-ENGLISH WEEK 2

**SUBJECT:** Literature-in-English  
**TOPIC:** Rhyme and rhyme scheme  
**CLASS:** SS3  
**WEEK:** 2

### Introduction

Rhyme is when one of two or more words ends in the same sound. Example 'awake' is a rhyme for 'lake'.

Rhyme is mainly a function of sound rather than spelling.

Writers especially poets use rhymes as a way to create sound patterns in order to emphasize certain words and their relationship with other words in an artistic manner.

### Types of Rhyme

In poetry, there are many types of rhymes:

- Perfect rhyme: this rhyme features two words that share the exact assonance and number of syllables and is also known as true rhyme. E.g. skylight /'skailait/ \_\_ twilight ('twailait/
- Slant rhyme: this rhyme features words with similar but not exact assonance and/or a number of syllables. It is also known as half rhyme or imperfect rhyme E.g. grieve /gri:v/ \_\_ believe /bə'li:v/
- Eye rhyme: This type of rhyme features two words that appear similar when read but do not actually rhyme when spoken or pronounced. E.g. mood /mu:d/ \_\_ hood /hʊd/, more /mɔ:/ \_\_ dove /dʌv/.
- Masculine rhyme: this type takes place on the final stressed syllable of the words. E.g. compare /kəm'peə/ \_\_ repair /ri'peə/is
- Feminine rhyme: this type is also called double rhyme, it occurs stressed syllables followed by one or more unstressed syllables. E.g. lazy /'leizi/ \_\_ crazy /'kreizi/.
- End rhyme: this type of rhyme occurs at the final words of two consecutive lines of poetry or non-consecutive lines following a rhyme scheme. E.g.  
tiger tiger burning bright  
In the forest of the night
- Internal rhyme: is when a word from inside the line (around halfway through) rhymes with the word at the end of the line. E.g. once upon a midnight **dreary**, while I pondered, weak and **weary**  
While I nodded, nearly **napping**, suddenly there came a **tapping**.

### Rhyme scheme

Rhyme scheme is the pattern of rhyme that comes at the end of each verse or line in poetry. Rhyme schemes are described using letters of the alphabet, such that all the lines in a poem that rhyme with each

other are assigned a letter beginning with “A”. For instance, a four-line poem in which the first line rhymes with the third line, and the second line rhymes with the fourth line has the rhyme scheme ABAB, as in the poem.

‘Roses are red, .....A

Violets are blue.....B

Shakespeare is dead?.... A

I had no clue’ ..... B

### Types of Rhyme Scheme

- a) Alternate rhyme scheme: it is known as ABAB rhyme scheme. It rhymes as ‘ABAB, CDCD, EFEF, GHGH’. (Elizabethan rhyme scheme). This means that the first four lines must rhyme, in the next set of four lines, the same pattern is repeated.
- b) Ballade rhyme scheme: it contains three stanzas with the rhyme scheme of ‘ABABBCBC’ followed by ‘BCBC’.
- c) Mono rhyme scheme: it is a poem that uses just one rhyme throughout the entire poem. Or every line uses the same rhyme scheme, as in AAAA.
- d) Couplet: it contains two-line stanzas with the ‘AA’ rhyme scheme which often appears as ‘AA, BB, CC and DD.
- e) Enclosed rhyme scheme: this type uses a rhyme scheme of ‘ABBA’.
- f) Terza rima rhyme scheme: it uses three-line stanzas. It is interlocking pattern on end words, it follows: ‘ABA, BCB, DCD DED’.
- g) And so on.

### IRONY

Irony is a figure of speech that expresses something other than its literal (not figurative) meaning or intention. It is a statement that when taken in context means something opposite of what is said or written.

Irony is also the use of words to convey a meaning that is opposite of what is actually said or written.

E.g. when a speaker mocks a person because of his/her poor dentition. “I wish I had your type of teeth.”

### Types of Irony

- I. Verbal irony
  - II. Situational irony
  - III. Dramatic irony
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- I. Verbal irony: this is the use of words to present a meaning that is different from what the speaker says.  
E.g. (a) After looking at a student’s poor test score, the teachers says, “you will surely finish this year

with the highest scores.”

(b) A man tastes his wife’s delicious home-cooked meal and exclaims, “I shall never eat this food ever again.”

- II. Dramatic irony: this happens when the audience or reader is aware of a something which the character of a movie or story does not know. Sometimes, such character acts or moves in a way that is different from what the audience or reader expects him or her to do.

This type of irony creates intense feelings such as humour or suspense.

### **HOMEWORK**

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee  
Mighty and dreadful, for thou arr not so;  
For those whom thou think’st thou dost overthrow  
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.

1. The rhyme scheme of the four lines of this poem is

- A. aabb
- B. abab
- C. abba
- D. baab

And I will not be there to

Feed the needs of

Recurrent appetite

2. ‘feed the needs ...’ is an example of

- A. internal rhyme
- B. end rhyme
- C. personification
- D. rhyme

Had we but world enough time,

This coyness, lady, were no crime,

We would sit down, and think which way

To walk and pass our long love’s day.

3. what is the rhyme scheme used in the poem above?

