

Module 5: Poetry
Topic 5 Content: Rhyme in Poetry Notes

Introduction



The image shows a digital interface for learning about rhyme. At the top, the title "Rhyme in Poetry" is written in a large, white, cursive font on an orange background. Below the title, there are four white tabs with dark blue headers. The headers are labeled "End", "Internal", "Slant", and "None". Below the tabs is a teal banner with white text that reads: "Click on each of the tabs to learn about different types of rhyme."

Rhyme refers to the repetition of sounds in two or more words. Click on each of the tabs to learn more about different types of rhymes in poetry. Make sure to visit each section.

Module 5: Poetry
Topic 5 Content: Rhyme in Poetry Notes

End Rhyme

Rhyme in Poetry

In me thou see'st the twilight of such day
As after sunset fadeth in the west,
Which by and by black night doth take away,
Death's second self, that seals up all in rest."

from "Sonnet 73" by William Shakespeare

Close

The most common type of rhyming is end rhyme, or rhyming that occurs at the end of lines of poetry. Take a moment to view this excerpt from William Shakespeare's "Sonnet 73" and to read it to yourself. Notice how the first and third lines rhyme, and the second and fourth lines rhyme. When you analyze the rhyming pattern in poetry, you should use letters to indicate the rhyme scheme. You should label the first line with the letter A. Every line that rhymes with the first line will also be labeled A. The first line that does not rhyme with A is labeled with the letter B, and so on.

Module 5: Poetry
Topic 5 Content: Rhyme in Poetry Notes

Internal Rhyme

Rhyme in Poetry

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,
Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore—
While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,
As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.
“Tis some visitor,” I muttered, “tapping at my chamber door—
Only this and nothing more.”

from “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe

Close

When poets utilize words that rhyme within the same line, it is called an internal rhyme. Take a moment to view this excerpt from “The Raven” by Edgar Allan Poe and to read it to yourself. What you will notice is that in the first and third lines of the poem, there are rhymes within each line using the words dreary, weary, napping, and tapping.

Module 5: Poetry
Topic 5 Content: Rhyme in Poetry Notes

Slant Rhyme

Rhyme in Poetry

When have I last looked on
The round green eyes and the long wavering bodies
Of the dark leopards of the moon?
All the wild witches, those most noble ladies,

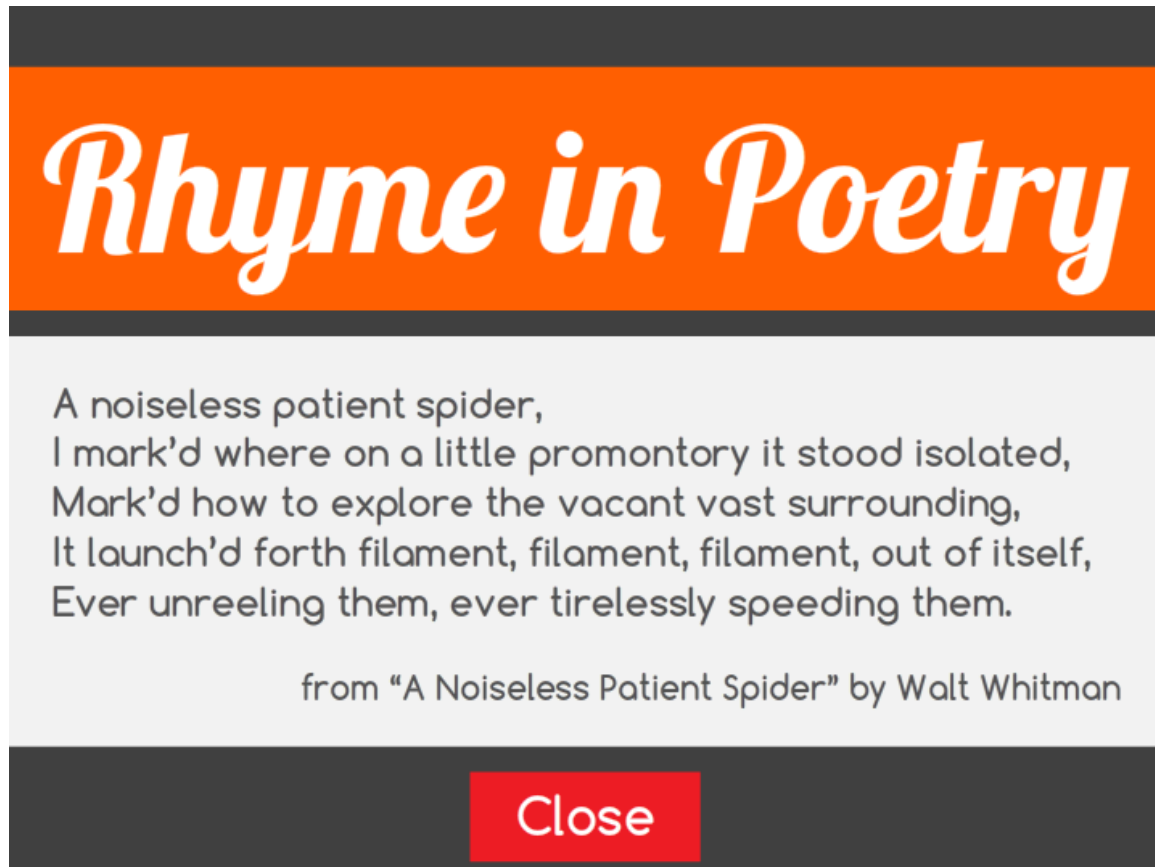
from "Lines Written in Dejection" by William Butler Yeats

Close

Sometimes, a poet uses sets of words that *almost* rhyme, but do not rhyme exactly. This is called near rhyme, slant rhyme, or approximate rhyme. Take a moment to view this excerpt from the poem "Lines Written in Dejection" by William Butler Yeats and to read it to yourself. When you first look at the sample, the first and third lines and the second and fourth lines appear to rhyme; however, when you read the poem out loud, you will notice that the word "moon" does not rhyme with "on" and the word "bodies" does not rhyme with "ladies." While these words do not rhyme exactly, the rhyme is very close.

Module 5: Poetry
Topic 5 Content: Rhyme in Poetry Notes

No Rhyme



Rhyme in Poetry

A noiseless patient spider,
I mark'd where on a little promontory it stood isolated,
Mark'd how to explore the vacant vast surrounding,
It launch'd forth filament, filament, filament, out of itself,
Ever unreeling them, ever tirelessly speeding them.

from "A Noiseless Patient Spider" by Walt Whitman

Close

Some poems have no rhyming or rhythmic pattern. These poems are called free verse poems. Take a moment to view this excerpt from the poem "A Noiseless Patient Spider" by Walt Whitman and to read it to yourself. You can see that there is no set rhyming pattern in the poem.