

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Rhyme & Rhythm

## Techniques for Writing Rhymes

OK, let's kick it off with the basics:

Start with the word then take it and break it

Down into syllables, those are the units

Of pronunciation, let's get moving.

"Cat": one syllable, "feline": two,

Now do you understand how to count 'em up?

Not all syllables are created the same,

Some are stressed or accented when you say 'em,

Like do you want to preSENT or would you like a PREsent?

Stressing the wrong syllable might leave 'em guessing.

The stressed syllables determine the rhythm,

Say your line out loud before it gets written.

Now it's time to define rhyme, OK?

When the last syllables in words sound the same.

You can rhyme just one syllable like "amp"

In lamp at a camp or a champ with a stamp.

Or it could be two syllables like 'ation,'

In vacation, I'll take one around the nation.

OK, now when the lines rhyme at the end,

That's an end rhyme, if you got time to spend.

Look at any one of these fine lines

For an example of end rhyme.

Oh, and check out the rhyme scheme,

That's the pattern of the end words, I mean.

The first end sound gets an "A,"

If that sound repeats its labeled the same way.

Like "AABB" is a common scheme to see,  
And if you're ready for the hook come sing along with me.

Ba-da-dah, what syllables I stress  
Help determine the rhythm of my lines, I guess.  
I slip in rhymes, so my mind's not stressed,  
Are y'all ready for mine? Say it! "Ah, yes!"  
(2x)

OK, one technique as you start your rhyme  
Is to count the syllables you use in each line.  
You'll usually want to keep the counts similar-ish,  
Or mix it up, if you wish.  
But you're probably not gonna want to stuff your lines with too many syllables,  
Or they're not really gonna fit, fitting is critical.  
Step up your vocab, vocab is a factor,  
The more words you know the easier it is to master.  
Say you're stuck with the word "legs,"  
And the only rhyme you can think of is "eggs."  
If you switched it to a synonym, like 'limb,'  
You could rhyme "swim," "brim" or "pseudonym."  
You can revise so the end rhyme is different,  
With a new end sound, rhymes are infinite.  
If I can't rhyme with "The town was rural,"  
Because it's hard to rhyme with a word like "rural,"  
I rewrite the line to end with "the rural town,"  
Now rhymes abound, and it's easy to jot 'em down.  
And if you want, try a slant rhyme,  
Where it's not exact, but it sounds fine.  
'Cause it all depends on how you flip it,  
I could make that rhyme with "liquid" or "equipment."  
I have an orange in storage, it's four inches round,

This beat'll boom 'til it breaks the door hinges down.

Lastly, never quit after a first draft,

Revising your work is part of the craft.

Find relevant rhymes, so the meanings get deeper,

And improve your rhythm, so it's bumping out the speaker!