

The Sounds of Poetry

Rhyme

- Rhyme is **the repetition of the sound of the stressed vowel and any sounds that follow it in words that are close together**
- *nails and whales, material and cereal, icicle and bicycle*

Rhyme

- rhyme was considered essential to poetry until very recently
- poetry has always been primarily a spoken form
- poetry pre-dates the written word

Internal/End Rhyme

- **Rhymes that occur at the ends of lines** are end rhyme
- Rhyming words are seldom spaced more than 4 lines apart
- A rhyme scheme is **a regular pattern of end rhyme which defines the shape of a poem and holds it together**
- **Rhyme that occurs inside lines** is internal rhyme

Not quite rhyme

- English is not a great language for rhyming
- Approximate rhymes solve the problem of creating new rhymes by **repeating some sounds but not exactly echoing each other**
- also called half rhymes, off rhymes, slant rhymes
- *moon and morn, hollow and mellow*

Rhythm

- **A musical quality based on repetition**
- **Meter is a common form of rhythm with a regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in each line**

Rhythm

- Since the 19th century, poetry in English has started shifting away from strict rhythm (and rhyme scheme) and started developing **free verse**
- It might sound more like prose or everyday speech, but poets still pay close attention to the sound and rhythm of their lines

Other sounds

- Onomatopoeia is **the use of words that sound like what they mean**
- *hiss, slap, rumble, snarl, moan*

Other sounds

- Alliteration is **the repetition of the same consonant sound in several words, usually at the beginnings of the words**
 - *fragrant flowers, dog days*
- Assonance is **the repetition of vowel sounds**

