Rhyme Schemes

Rhyming words are words that sound the same at the ends, such as c**at** / h**at**, or j**umping** / b**umping**.

When a poem has rhyming words at the **ends of lines**, these are called "end rhymes." Here is an example of end rhyme:

> My cat is n**ice**.
> My cat likes m**ice**.

A "rhyme scheme" is a way of describing the pattern of **end rhymes** in a poem. Each new sound at the end of a line is given a letter, starting with "A," then "B," and so on. If an end sound repeats the end sound of an earlier line, it gets the same letter as the earlier line.

Here are three slightly different cat poems, each with a different rhyme scheme. The first is **AABB**, the second is **ABAB**, and the third is **ABCB**):

My cat is n**ice**.	**A**	My cat is n**ice**.	**A**	My cat is g**ray**.	**A**
My cat likes m**ice**.	**A**	My cat is f**at**.	**B**	My cat is f**at**.	**B**
My cat is f**at**.	**B**	My cat likes m**ice**.	**A**	My cat is c**ute**.	**C**
I like my c**at**.	**B**	I like my c**at**.	**B**	I like my c**at**.	**B**

Exercise:

1. Read the following poems by Kenn Nesbitt.
2. For each poem, identify the rhyme scheme and write it below the poem.

Mr. Brown the Circus Clown

Mr. Brown, the circus clown
puts his clothes on upside down.
He wears his hat upon his toes
and socks and shoes upon his nose.

Rhyme scheme: _____

All My Great Excuses

I started on my homework
but my pen ran out of ink.
My hamster ate my homework.
My computer's on the blink.

Rhyme scheme: _____

My Penmanship is Pretty Bad

My penmanship is pretty bad.
My printing's plainly awful.
In truth, my writing looks so sad
it ought to be unlawful.

Rhyme scheme: _____

Today I Had a Rotten Day

Today I had a rotten day.
As I was coming in from play
I accidentally stubbed by toes
and tripped and fell and whacked my nose.

Rhyme scheme: _____

http://www.poetry4kids.com/blog/lessons/rhyme-schemes-lesson-plan/