Rhyming 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 its 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 likes m**ice**.	**A**
My cat is f**at**.	**B**
I like my c**at**.	**B**

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

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

Watch the video on Rhyming Scheme.

Exercise:

A)Read the following poems and identify the rhyme schemes.

1) Mr. Brown the Circus Clown by Kenn Nesbitt.

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: _____

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2) My Penmanship is Pretty Bad by Kenn Nesbitt.

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

Rhyme scheme: _____

3) All My Great Excuses by Kenn Nesbitt.

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: _____

4) Today I Had a Rotten Day by Kenn Nesbitt.

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

Rhyme scheme: _____

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5. Use the letters for the rhyming scheme: ABC

Did I hear the church-clock a few minutes ago,
I was asked, and I answered, I hardly did know,
But I thought that I heard it strike three.
Said my friend then, "The blessings we always possess
We know not the want of, and prize them the less;
The church-clock was no new sound to thee.

Rhyme scheme: _____

6) Use the letters: ABC

What is love? 'tis not hereafter;
Present mirth hath present laughter;
What's to come is still unsure:
In delay there lies no plenty,
Then come kiss me, sweet and twenty,
Youth's a stuff will not endure.

Rhyming Scheme: _____

7. The Sea by *James Reeves*

The sea is a hungry dog,
Giant and grey.
He rolls on the beach all day.
With his clashing teeth and shaggy jaws
Hour upon hour he gnaws

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The rumbling, tumbling stones,
And 'Bones, bones, bones, bones!
'The giant sea-dog moans,
Licking his greasy paws.

Check which Rhyming Scheme of this poem using ABCD.
__ ABCABCABC ____ ABBCCDDDC ___ AABBCCDDC

8) **JABBERWOCKY BY LEWIS CARROLL**
'Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!'

Rhyming Scheme: _____

9) **PARDON MY FRENCH By Edlynn Nau**
She swore like a sailor
and what did it mean?
Did he cuss as a pause...
were their cohorts unclean?

Rhyming Scheme: _____

10) **Life of a Teenager by Janneke Tenvoorde**
Many have told me
That your teen years
Are the best part of your life,
Though to me and my peers

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It doesn't seem so.
They are filled with strife.
They are filled with fears.
These growing up years.

Check which Rhyming Scheme of this poem using ABCD.
__ ABCDABCD ____ ABCDABCC ____ ABCBDCBB

Bonus: Write a poem with a rhyming scheme of AABBCC.

Site sources

https://poetry4kids.com/lessons/rhyme-schemes-poetry-lesson-plan/
https://poemanalysis.com/rhyme-scheme/aabccb/

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