

Poetry

Simple Poems have a regular rhyme scheme and rhythm.

Literary Elements

Rhyme Schemes are the patterns of rhyming words in poems. Rhyme schemes are written with small letters, beginning with a.

Rhythm is the regular repetition of syllables.

I'm Building a Rocket

by Kenn Nesbit

I'm building a rocket.
As soon as I'm done
I'm taking my friends
On a trip to the sun.

The rhyme scheme for this stanza would be a, b, c, b.

But what do you mean
That the sun is too hot?
Oh, well, I suppose
I'll just pick a new spot.

I'm building a rocket.
I'm finishing soon
And taking my friends
On a trip to the moon!



But what do you mean
That the moon has no air?
Well, dang, then I guess
That we can't go up there.

I'm building a rocket.
It's going to fly.
I'm taking my friends
Way up high in the sky.

But what do you mean
When you ask how we'll land?
This rocket is harder
To build than I planned.

To heck with the rocket.
It's out in the shed. ←
I'm taking my friends
Out for pizza instead.

There are six syllables
in lines 1 and 4 and five
syllables in lines 2 and 3.
This is an example of
rhythm.

Connect and Compare



1. What are some other examples of rhyme schemes and rhythm that make this a simple poem? **Rhyme Schemes and Rhythm**
2. Read the poem aloud. How does the rhythm help you read the poem with expression? **Evaluate**
3. Compare this poem with *Ultimate Field Trip 5: Blasting Off to Space Academy*. What is the difference between the children in the book and the speaker in this poem?

Reading/Writing Across Texts



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Writer's Craft

Important Details

Important details that describe or explain make writing interesting. Readers need detailed descriptions, explanations, and examples to better understand your experience.

Write About an Experience

September 19

Dear Mrs. Hansen,

I miss my old school and friends. I know you said I would have some great experiences in my new town. Now I know you were right! I'm writing to tell you about last weekend.

We went to an international parade called Folkmoot. People in costumes from all over the world came to sing, dance, and perform their music.

The colorful costumes were decorated with red, blue and green beads and some even had feathers. The beads were so sparkly they nearly blinded me. Who would have thought I'd have this incredible experience in a small North Carolina town?

Sincerely,
Marcella W.

I included important details to tell my teacher about a great experience.

I used descriptive details to describe the costumes.

Your Turn

Write a letter about an exciting experience you have had. Choose descriptive details that help the person you are writing to share the experience with you. Use the writer's checklist to check your letter.



Writer's Checklist

- Ideas and Content:** Does my letter include **important details**?
- Organization:** Did I separate my letter into paragraphs so it is easy to read?
- Voice:** Will the person who reads my letter know I wrote it before he or she sees my signature?
- Word Choice:** Did I use precise words related to sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch?
- Sentence Fluency:** Did I sometimes use long sentences instead of short, choppy sentences?
- Conventions:** Did I use the correct punctuation? Did I check my spelling?