

### Sound devices

Another aspect of language is the use of sound devices. The most frequent sound devices in English poetry are: rhyme, alliteration, assonance, consonance and onomatopoeia.

Rhyme is one of the first elements of form in poetry. Lines of a poem are said to rhyme, or to have rhyme, or to have a rhyme scheme, when the ends of their final words have identical sounds:

There was a lady live in a hall, a  
Large in eyes, and slim and tall; a  
And ever she sung From noon to noon. b  
Two red roses across the moon. b

(William Morris)

The usual position of rhyme is at the end of lines. This is called end-rhyme. When rhyme comes in the middle of the line, it is called internal rhyme: "The long light shakes across the lakes" and "The fair breeze blew, the white foam flew". Rhyme is called single or masculine when only single syllables rhyme as in (all/pall; air/fair). It is called double or feminine when two syllables rhyme as in (duty/beauty; rosy/posy). Triple rhyme is when three syllables rhyme as in (tenderly/slenderly; charity/clarity). Another type of rhyme is eye-rhyme or incomplete rhyme. Eye-rhyme is when the vowel sounds are not pronounced in the

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rhyme is marked b, as are all successive lines that rhyme with it, and so one:

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| What voice of gladness. Hark! | a |
| In heaven is ringing!         | b |
| From the sad fields tire lark | a |
| Is upward winging             | b |

Closely associated with rhyme is another sound device: alliteration. Alliteration is the repetition of initial letters or consonants in a line of poetry or in closely adjacent lines:

Soft, soft wind, from out the sweet south sliding  
Waif thy silver cloud webs athwart the summer sea.

Alliteration creates a beautiful effect in poem. It creates music and emphasizes rhythm; but it can also enrich meaning, as it does in this example where the poet is describing the Queen:

Pale, beyond porch and portal,

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Consonance is the repetition of consonant sounds in a line of poetry:

Proud and unafraid he stood  
Nor said a word to those around.

Onomatopoeia is the use of words in which the sound suggests the sense, as in buzz, murmur, bang, hiss ... etc.

The moan of doves in immemorial  
And murmuring of innumerable bees.

8.26 x 11.69 in