

Name _____

Date _____

Determine the Impact of Rhyme

A poem is a combination of sound and meaning. Poets choose their words carefully, since word choice, or diction, affects a poem's meaning and the way it sounds. Rhyme is the repetition of sounds at the end of words, as in more and roar. Words rhyme when their accented vowels and the letters that follow have identical or similar sounds.

Read the following poem and answer the questions.

The Winter Night

The snow falls soft on winter night,
The world is dressed in purest white.
The moon above shines cold and bright,
As children sleep with dreams so light.

The forest stands in silence deep,
As creatures all begin to sleep.
The frozen pond, a mirror keep,
While snowflakes gently downward leap.

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1. What is the rhyme scheme in this poem? Give examples of words that rhyme.

2. How does the rhyme pattern affect how you read the poem?

3. How would the poem's impact change if it did not have rhymes?

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Determine the Impact of Rhyme - Answer Key

1. What is the rhyme scheme in this poem? Give examples of words that rhyme.

The rhyme scheme is AAAA BBBB. Examples: "night," "white," "bright," "light" in first stanza; "deep," "sleep," "keep," "leap" in second stanza.

2. How does the rhyme pattern affect how you read the poem?

The consistent end rhymes create a soothing rhythm that mirrors the soft falling snow. The repeated sounds give the poem a musical quality and make it flow smoothly.

3. How would the poem's impact change if it did not have rhymes?

Without rhymes, the poem would lose its musical quality and gentle rhythm that reinforces the peaceful winter scene. The mood would be less serene and the poem less cohesive.