

Journalism/Creative Writing Extended Project Poetry Track

Step Nine: Sound Devices

Today we'll look at different sound devices that can be employed in your poems. There are other options than just end rhyme scheme. Using these sound devices can help with the flow and rhythm of your poems, as well as give more layers of meaning when used well.

- **Alliteration:** The repetition of initial consonant sounds. (Peter paid with pounds of pennies; Some say life is simple if not sublime).
- **Assonance:** The relatively close juxtaposition of the same or similar vowel sounds, but with different end consonants in a line or passage, thus a vowel rhyme, as in the words, date and fade. (Please heed this only decree, we shall be free
- **Consonance:** Essentially, the repetition of consonant sounds. A pleasing combination of sounds; sounds in agreement with tone. Also, the close repetition of the same consonants of stressed syllables with differing vowel sounds, such as *boat* and *night*, or the words *drunk* and *milk* in the final line of Coleridge's "Kubla Khan." e.g. A dove moved silently above the waves.
- **Onomatopoeia:** the formation or use of words which imitate sounds, like whispering, clang and sizzle, but the term is generally expanded to refer to any word whose sound is suggestive of its meaning.
- **Rhyme:** The repetition of the accented vowel sound and all succeeding sounds, as in old - cold, make - wake, feign - rain.