

## Devising a Rhyme

ANSWER: STELLA

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This puzzle is kind of actually three puzzles. The three poems all use notated rhyme schemes in different ways as a mechanism. Within each poem, there are hints about what you should do with the rhyme scheme. Then, you get the clue phrase “ASTROPHEL’S PARTNER IN RHYME” = “Astrophel’s partner in rhyme” = STELLA from Philip Sidney’s sonnet sequence *Astrophel and Stella*. Some more details on each:

1. Rhyme scheme by stanza: ABABCD CDEFEFGH GHIJ IJKL KLMN MNOP OPQR QR SS TT  
RR OO PP HH EE LL SS

“The queen had her own favorite trick,/A fondness for the use of rhyme” → use rhyme scheme for something

“What the sages had all found out/Was letters which appeared not/In the text nor were drowned out.” → letters which don’t appear in the text = rhyme scheme notations

“How else to divide or border/In the first poem they had read?” → think about ways to divide the poem - it’s obvious at this point that just going line-by-line won’t work, so how else can you divide the poem? = stanzas

“Line breaks will not here suffice” → stanzas

“You need not read every line” → not every rhyme letter is used in the answer

“Just look at starts then bid adieu” → just look at the beginning of stanzas

**Take the first rhyme scheme letter of each stanza and they spell out**

**“Astrophels.”**

2. Rhyme scheme by stanza: ABBBAAAA ABBAABAB ABBBAABA ABBBABAA  
ABBABBBA ABBAABAB ABBBAABA

First stanza → reminder to use rhyme scheme, warning that the mechanism is different from in the first poem

“Programmer” → minor hint that it’ll be computingy

“Often blended her passions two” → another hint at the same

“Every line mattered” → unlike in the first poem, you *will* need to use every line

“Each group of eight made up one clue” → each stanza corresponds to one letter; this also hints to binary

“Black or white, filled in or empty: → binary

“Letters as numbers you may view” → each rhyme scheme letter corresponds to a binary number

Last stanza is the same as the third → another hint that each stanza corresponds to one letter

**A=0, B=1, each stanza is one letter in binary once you make the switch; they spell out “partner.”**

3. Rhyme scheme: ABABCBC

“The **text** of a **plain** paper piece/Reads SOJUEPY” → SOJUEPY is plaintext

“A car in the lot . . . lacks a key” → autokey cipher; you’re missing the key, so that must be what you’re looking for

“Once again you’ll be saved by rhyme” → duh

“A cipher will help you this time” → duh; hopefully people will see here that they need a cipher and connect that with the car and the key

**You have plaintext and you’re missing the key. Thus, you must have the ciphertext. You need to use the rhyme scheme. The rhyme scheme *is* the ciphertext. Plug plaintext and ciphertext into an autokey solver, and you’ll get “inrhyme” = “in rhyme.”**

Hints: Highlight key lines as noted very thoroughly above. The third poem is probably the hardest, but honestly you don’t *really* need it - if you look up “Astrophel’s partner,” you’ll definitely get Stella. The second poem is probably the easiest/cleanest.