

Internal Rhyme

Definition of Internal Rhyme

Internal [rhyme](#) is a poetic device that can be defined as metrical lines in which its middle words and its end words rhyme with one another. It is also called “middle rhyme,” since it comes in the middle of lines.

Types of Internal Rhyme

Same Line: Rhyme in the same line comes when the words rhyme in a single line.

For example, “Once upon a midnight **dreary**, while I pondered, weak and **weary**,

Separate Line: Rhyme in separate lines comes when two or more words rhyme in the middle of the separate lines. For example, “While I nodded, nearly **napping**, suddenly there came a **tapping**,
As of someone gently **rapping, rapping** at my chamber door.”

End of, and Middle of Line: Rhyme of the words at the end of lines and words in the middle of the lines come when the words at the end of lines rhyme with the words in the middle of the next lines. For example:

“... Eagerly I wished the **morrow**; – vainly I had sought to **borrow**
From my books surcease of **sorrow** – sorrow for the lost
Lenore...”

(*The Raven*, by Edgar Allen Poe)

Examples of Internal Rhyme in Literature

Example #1: *The Raven* (By Edgar Allen Poe)

“Once upon a midnight **dreary**, while I pondered, weak and **weary**,
While I nodded, nearly **napping**, suddenly there came a **tapping**,
As of someone gently **rapping, rapping** at my chamber door.
Tis some visitor,” I muttered, “**tapping** at my chamber door...

Ah, distinctly I **remember** it was in the bleak **December**;
And each separate dying **ember** wrought its ghost upon the floor.
Eagerly I wished the **morrow**; – **vainly I had sought to borrow**
From my books surcease of sorrow – sorrow for the lost
Lenore...”

This is the most popular poem of Edgar Allen Poe, where he uses internal rhyme. Here we can see examples of internal rhymes where the words rhyme in the same lines, in separate lines, and in the proceeding lines.

Example #2: *Macbeth* (By William Shakespeare)

ALL:
“**Double, double** toil and **trouble**,
Fire burn and cauldron **bubble...**”

This is an excerpt from Macbeth, where all witches speak. This is an example of the first type of internal rhyme in which words rhyme in the same line.

Example #3: *Pink Dominoes* (By Rudyard Kipling)

“Jenny and **Me** were engaged, you **see...**
So a kiss or **two** was nothing to **you...**

Jenny would go in a **domino....**
While I **attended**, clad in a **splendid...**

Now we had **arranged**, through notes **exchanged...**
At Number **Four** to waltz no **more...**

When Three was **over**, an eager **lover**...”

In the given lines of Kipling’s *Pink Dominoes*, the poet has used the first type of internal rhyme.

Example #4: *The Rime of Ancient Mariner* (By Samuel Taylor Coleridge)

“The ship was **cheer’d**, the harbor **clear’d**,
And every **day**, for food or **play**,
In mist or **cloud**, on mast or **shroud**,..
Whiles all the **night**, through fog-smoke **white**,
Glimmer’d the white moonshine ...

“Why look’st thou **so?**” — ‘With my **crossbow**
Ah wretch! Said **they**, the bird to **slay**...
Then all **averr’d**, I had kill’d the **bird**...
The fair breeze **blew**, the white foam **flew**...”

In this excerpt, the rhyming words create a musical effect and give emphasis to the meanings.

Example #5: *Annabel Lee* (By Edgar Allan Poe)

“For the moon never **beams** without bringing me **dreams**
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And the stars never **rise** but I feel the bright **eyes**
Of the beautiful Annabel Lee;
And so, all the night-**tide**, I lie down by the **side**
Of my darling, my darling, my life and my bride...”

In the above example, the first type of internal rhyme is employed. The words which create internal rhyme are shown in bold. These words give [rhythm](#) and a regular [rhyme scheme](#) to the poem.

Function of Internal Rhyme

The sound [repetition](#) due to internal rhyme makes a poem or story unified. It is employed to heighten the poem's effect, and this internal rhyme can take place in the same line or two separate alternating lines. Also, it adds to the meanings of words, and enhances musical the effect of a poem.