

Point of View and Rhyme Scheme

Point of View: The author of a poem is not always speaking as himself or herself. Point of view may be 1st person – narrator or 3rd person (objective, limited omniscient, omniscient). You must figure out, or infer, what kind of person the teller of a poem is from indirect clues in the poem.

Rhyme Scheme: The rhyme scheme is the pattern of rhymes in a poem. It is usually written in algebraic form as lower case letters that represent the rhyming words.

Vocabulary: rhyme, end rhyme, quatrain, couplet

Write the rhyme scheme for this poem and answer these questions.

Early Spring

- ____ 1. Olan found us in the barn lot
____ 2. On the other side of the road
____ 3. Clearing the rock that had got
____ 4. Out of the ground in the cold.
- ____ 5. He had come up all the way
____ 6. Moving slowly on his cane
____ 7. To see if we were the same
____ 8. Ones he had heard today
- ____ 9. Dragging the sledge and lifting the rocks
____ 10. To clear the field for the hay and crops
____ 11. That the summer sun would draw
____ 12. Out of the land after the thaw.
- ____ 13. He showed me how to get a stone
____ 14. After kicking it from the ground,
____ 15. Grab one in each hand and throw
____ 16. Em easily but not too slow.
- ____ 17. Then to pull the sledge along
____ 18. Some twenty feet but not much more,
____ 19. And so to go the whole field over
____ 20. Till every handful had been flung.
- ____ 21. He said the work of rock is like
____ 22. Harvesting for any gain,
____ 23. Not obtained without delight
____ 24. Or endured without some pain.

1. How is the rhyme scheme different from that of most poems?
2. Why do you think the poet made the rhyme scheme the way it is?
3. Copy two exact rhymes and two oblique rhymes.
4. What do you think a sledge is?

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5. Why does the field need clearing?
6. What month of the year is it?
7. What can you infer about the climate of the area in the poem?
8. How many rocks is a person supposed to pick up at once?
9. In what time period could the poem have taken place?
10. What is the job in the poem?
11. What is the setting of this poem?
12. What point of view is the poem written in? 1st person – 3rd person
13. Does the poem sound like actual speech or artificial poetry?
14. Who is the main character in the poem?
15. What do you know about the main character?
16. What is the relationship of the main character to the narrator?
17. List what you know about the narrator. What does the narrator not know about farm work?
18. What is the attitude, mood, of the author toward Olan and the work?
19. Pick the best theme for the poem
 - a. Work makes you too tired to talk
 - b. Work is difficult but rewarding
 - c. Work gives a person a bad temper
 - d. Work is not necessary and boring