

Elements of Poetry: Stanza, Rhyme Scheme, and Imagery

Grade 4 • ELA • Identifying stanzas, rhyme schemes, and imagery in short poems • Standards: RL.4.5

Read each short poem carefully. Answer the questions about its stanzas, rhyme scheme, and imagery.

1. How many stanzas are in this poem?

The wind blows high,
The wind blows low.
It swirls the leaves
Wherever they go.

2. What is the rhyme scheme of this poem?

My cat is gray,
She sleeps all day.
She likes to play,
In her own way.

3. Which sense does the imagery in this line appeal to? 'The cookies smelled like cinnamon and sugar.'

4. How many stanzas are in this poem?

The moon shines bright,
Up in the sky.

The stars twinkle
Way up high.

5. What is the rhyme scheme of this poem?

I saw a bird,
Sitting in a tree.
It sang a song,
Just for me.

6. What type of imagery is used in this line? 'The thunder rumbled like a giant's drum.'

7. What is the rhyme scheme of the second stanza in this poem?

Raindrops fall down,
Splashing on the ground.

Puddles form here,
Reflecting the sky.
Children jump near,
Watching clouds fly.

8. This poem uses imagery that appeals to multiple senses. Name two senses the imagery appeals to.

The campfire crackled bright,
Orange flames danced in the night.
Warm air touched my face,
Smoke rose from that special place.

Answer Key — Elements of Poetry: Stanza, Rhyme Scheme, and Imagery

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. 1 (*The entire poem is one group of lines with no breaks, so it has one stanza.*)
2. AAAA (*All four lines end with words that rhyme (gray, day, play, way), so the pattern is AAAA.*)
3. smell (*The word 'smelled' tells us this imagery appeals to the sense of smell.*)
4. 2 (*There is a line break separating two groups of lines, creating two stanzas.*)
5. ABCB (*Lines 1 and 3 do not rhyme with anything. Lines 2 and 4 rhyme (tree, me), creating the pattern ABCB.*)
6. sound (*The line describes what the thunder sounded like, so it uses sound imagery.*)
7. ABAB (*In the second stanza, lines 1 and 3 rhyme (here, near), and lines 2 and 4 rhyme (sky, fly), creating ABAB.*)
8. sight and touch (or hearing and touch, or sight and hearing) (*The poem includes visual imagery (bright, orange flames, danced), sound imagery (crackled), and touch imagery (warm air touched my face). Any two of these senses are correct.*)