POETRY

Poetry is a type of literature that uses the sounds, rhythms, and meanings of words to describe the world in striking and imaginative ways.
LINES AND STANZAS

Poetry is divided into lines, or groups of words. In some poems, the first word of each line is capitalized, even if it is not the beginning of a sentence. A sentence in a poem may stretch over several lines.
LINES AND STANZAS

In many poems, lines are organized in units of meanings called **stanzas**. The lines in a stanza work together to express one key idea. A blank line, called a stanza break, signals that one stanza has ended and a new stanza is beginning.
REFRAINS AND REPETITION

Like a catchy song, a poem may repeat lines, either identically or with variations. A line or group of lines that is repeated at regular intervals in a poem is called a refrain. Often, a refrain is repeated at the end of each stanza. A poet may also repeat lines with variations—changing one or more words with each repetition.
As you read the poem to your right, notice how the poet uses repetition, including a refrain, to emphasize his key ideas.

“Life” by Paul Laurence Dunbar

A crust of bread and a corner to sleep in,
A minute to smile and an hour to weep in,
A pint of joy to a peck of trouble,
And never a laugh, but the moans come double;
   And that is life!

A crust and a corner that love makes precious,
With a smile to warm the tears to refresh us;
And joy seems sweeter when cares come after,
And a moan is the finest of foils for laughter;
   And that is life!
RHYME

Most poems make use of highly concise, musical, and emotionally charged language. Many also make use of imagery, figurative language, and special devices of sound such as rhyme.
Rhyme is the repetition of sounds at the ends of words. Poets use rhyme to lend a songlike quality to their verses and to emphasize certain words and ideas.
END RHYMES

Many traditional poems contain end rhymes, or rhyming words at the end of lines.
INTERNAL RHYMES

Another common device is the use of internal rhymes, or rhyming words within lines. Internal rhyme also emphasizes the flowing nature of a poem.
RHYME SCHEME

A rhyme scheme is a regular pattern of rhyming words in a poem. To indicate the rhyme scheme of a poem, one uses lowercase letters. Each rhyme is assigned a different letter.
Now try it yourself. Assign a letter for each rhyme in the first stanza of “Dust of Snow” by Robert Frost:

The way a crow ______
Shook down on me ______
The dust of snow ______
From a hemlock tree ______
RHYME SCHEME

The way a crow ___a____
Shook down on me ___b____
The dust of snow ___a____
From a hemlock tree ___b____
RHYTHM

**Rhythm** is a pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in spoken or written language.
RHYTHM

Most poems have rhythm, or a beat, created by the stressed and unstressed syllables in words. To sustain a pattern of rhythm, or meter, a poet may arrange words and break lines at certain points.
FAMOUS EXAMPLE OF RHYTHM

Listen to the almost famous person we all know and love use rhythm in the following YouTube clip:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JfPzS2OnfGU
SNAPS FOR MR. BEAT’S BEAT!!!!!!

Now, using Mr. Beat’s example of rhythm, what we’ve learned today about rhyme schemes, stanzas and repetition, see if you can’t have some fun revising your own writing from earlier this week!