

Gem Legend



OPAL
1 point

Perfect Rhyme (1-syllable)

Exact single-syllable rhymes

Ex: sack / back / pack

Internal Rhyme (1-syllable)

Rhymes occurring at non-ending positions

Ex: The bright light shines at dawn

Alliteration

Identical starting sounds (max 2 intervening words)

Ex: big brown bears

Onomatopoeia

Words mimicking natural sounds

Ex: crash, boom, splash

Slant Rhyme (1-syllable)

Similar but distinct ending sounds

Ex: love / rough / snub

Simile

Comparisons using 'like' or 'as'

Ex: brave as a lion

Repetition

Repeated words/phrases for emphasis
(min 2 instances)

Ex: Run fast, run far, run free

Problem-Solution Structure

Presents a problem and its
resolution

Ex: Lost/finding a way home

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AMETHYST

2 points

Multisyllable Rhyme (2-syllables)

Ex: walking / talking

Metaphor

Direct comparison without 'like' or 'as'

Ex: Her voice was music

Wordplay/Pun

Words with double meanings or clever play

Ex: Bear with no teeth: gummy bear

Personification

Attributing human qualities to non-human entities

Ex: Fear whispered doubts

Voice Shift

Shifts between speakers within the poem

Ex: Parent/child speaking their perspectives

Syntax Shift

Rearranging word order while preserving meaning

Key Feature: Supports stylistic play, rhyme structure, or both

Ex: Rearranging “hit the road” to “the road I hit”

Internal Rhyme (2-syllables)

Ex: The yellow mellow cat

Idiom

Common expressions with figurative meanings

Ex: Break the ice

Direct Address

Directly addressing reader, characters, or concepts

Ex: Listen, wind...

Juxtaposition/Contrast

Using opposite ideas to create emphasis or highlight difference

Ex: The icy fire burned in her heart

Sensory Imagery

Vivid appeals to specific senses

Ex: rough bark scratched

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EMERALD
3 points

Multisyllable Rhyme (3-syllables)

Stanza Rhyme Lock

Consistent pattern across a stanza
(min 4 lines)

Ex: AAAA, AABB or ABAB pattern

Dramatic Dialogue

Purposeful conversation revealing character
or plot

*Ex: A parent coaching a child before their
performance*

Internal Rhyme (3-syllables)

Extended Metaphor

Metaphor sustained throughout a poem

*Ex: Anger compared to a fire igniting,
spreading, then dying out*



TOPAZ
4 points

Multisyllable Rhyme (4-syllables)

Single Scheme (Start-to-Finish)

One rhyme pattern sustained throughout
an entire poem

Ex: 2-syllable scheme

Internal Rhyme (4-syllables)

Sound Echoes

Substituting words/phrases with sound-alike
alternatives to create dual meaning for context.

Key Feature: Phonetic resemblance creates
dual meaning

*Ex: "Traveled out of steak" sounding like "out of
state" in food-themed poem*

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ALEXANDRITE

5 points

Multisyllable Rhyme (5+ syllables)

Scheme Stacking - Dual

Two distinct rhyme patterns sustained throughout an entire poem

Ex: 2 & 3-syllable scheme

Internal Rhyme (5+ syllables)

Cultural Adaptation

Adapting rhythm/structure from recognizable cultural sources (e.g. - songs, speeches)

Ex: Adapting Queen's "We Will Rock You"



SAPPHIRE

7 points

Scheme Stacking - Triple

Three distinct rhyme patterns sustained throughout an entire poem

Ex: 2, 3 & 4-syllable scheme

Idiom Embodiment

Developing an idiom literally while retaining its figurative meaning.

Key Feature: Entire poem simultaneously operates on figurative/literal levels.

Ex: "Spilling the beans" becomes literal beans spilled/figurative secret revealed



RUBY

9 points

Scheme Stacking - Supreme

Four or more distinct rhyme patterns sustained throughout an entire poem

Ex: 2, 3, 4 & 5-syllable scheme