

7.15 Rhyme Time

Who is this for?

LEVELS

3–8

GENRE / TEXT TYPE

any

PROCESSES

developing, drafting,
revising

Strategy Choose the part of your piece where you want to rhyme—at the ends of lines or sentences, or in the middle of lines or sentences? Generate a list of words that rhyme that could fit in either the sentences or lines. You may need to change the order of the words in your sentence, not just the one word, to make the new rhyming word fit. If you can't make rhyming words work with the original words in your lines, you may need to find syllables or change the order of the words in the original line.

Lesson Language *I am writing a piece about boats, and I want to use rhyme. What I have now is: "The boats are gliding on the water / they leave trails behind them / Pushed by the wind." No rhyme at all! If I generate a list of words that might rhyme, maybe I should try to rhyme with wind because that's an important part of the sailboat. Let's see, skinned. Thinned. Pinned. Hm. I'm not getting anywhere with that. Let me try a syllable for wind—gust. Rhyming words: Trust. Rust. Dust. Fussed. Must. Let me work with that: "Boats are gliding on the water / Pushed by a wind gust / Sails up to catch the force / Something something is a must." Or, "In something something I will trust." Or, "Bright and shiny, without rust."*

Teaching Tip Rhymezone.com offers a rhyming dictionary/thesaurus tool that can help children generate rhyming words, phrases that contain a rhyming word, and words that almost rhyme.

Using a Mentor Douglas Florian's poems about insects (*Insectlopedia*) (1998) and amphibians (*Lizards, Frogs, and Polliwogs*) (2001) offer endless examples of clever use of rhyme while maintaining meaning.

