

Literary Analysis

RHYME SCHEME

A **rhyme scheme** is the pattern of end rhyme in a poem. Rhyme can emphasize important words and also help to create a distinct rhythm. For example, in an *abca* rhyme scheme, the second and third lines (*b* and *c*) do not rhyme. In an *abba* rhyme scheme, the first and fourth lines rhyme, and the second and third lines rhyme.

**Directions:** Complete each chart to analyze the rhyme schemes of these poems. Name each rhyme scheme and then identify rhyming pairs that convey ideas important to the poem. Finally, describe the overall effect of each rhyme scheme.

“To an Athlete Dying Young”

Rhyme Scheme	Key Rhyming Pairs	Overall Effect of Rhymes

“When I Was One-and-Twenty”

Rhyme Scheme	Key Rhyming Pairs	Overall Effect of Rhymes

TO AN ATHLETE DYING YOUNG /  
WHEN I WAS ONE-AND-TWENTY