

Vital Question

If a poem doesn't rhyme—
How do you know
It's a poem?

If it's about sunsets and flowers, well okay.
But some of them might be about termites,
and rats,
Cockroaches, earwigs, bedbugs and silverfish,
Battalions of cooties,
And are more like the exterminator's report
Than a poem.

So how do you know it's a poem
If it doesn't rhyme?

--Jeremy Bloom (Korman)

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(Excerpt from: Korman, G., & Korman, B. (1992). *The D- poems of Jeremy Bloom: A collection of poems about school, homework, and life (sort of)*. New York: Scholastic.)

What's A Poem?

A whisper,
a shout,
thoughts turned
inside out.

A laugh,
a sigh,
an echo
passing by.

A rhythm,
a rhyme,
a moment
caught in time.

A moon,
a star,
a glimpse
of who you are.

(Source: <https://charlesghigna.blogspot.ca/2010/07/poem-is-little-path-poems-about-poetry.html>)

Inside a Poem

It doesn't always have to rhyme,
but there's the repeat of a beat, somewhere
an inner chime that makes you want to
tap your feet or swerve in a curve;
a lilt, a leap, a lightening-split--
thunderstruck the consonants jut,
while the vowels open wide as waves in the
noon-blue sea.

You hear with your heels, your eyes feel
what they never touched before:
fins on a bird, feathers on a deer;
taste all colours, inhale
memory and tomorrow and always the tang
is today.

(Source: Merriam, E. (1967). *An Invitation to Poetry*. Menlo Park, CA: Addison-Wesley.)

