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Poets use **alliteration** and **rhyme** to make descriptions fun to read and poems sound musical.

An example of **alliteration** is: **b**ouncing **b**alls **b**ang the **b**ird's tree

An example of **rhyme** is: I would like to **sit** a **bit**.

Read the lines of free verse below. Then answer the questions.

Learning to Read

*So I brought books to my mom and dad
like gifts for a long time. They cut out hours
for me from their days and nights. They knew
I needed to know what every word meant
so the words could be part of my life. Not right
away, but sooner than I thought,
letters let themselves be led into lines
that looked like the words I heard in my head.
Now the world seems smaller, somehow.
I figured out how to read and the words bring
the whole world of incredible things
into my open hands, curious as cats.*

1. What is an example of rhyme in the poem?

2. Circle two examples of alliteration in the poem.

3. What do the alliteration and rhyme do for the poem?

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Remember that a simile compares two things that are not very similar. A *simile* uses the words *like* or *as* in the comparison.
The girl's hair was yellow as straw.

Read each passage. Underline the simile. Then write the two things being compared on the line.

1. When I began reading, a book was like a bowl of letter soup.

2. I figured out how to read and the words bring the whole world of incredible things into my open hands, curious as cats.

3. So I brought books to my mom and dad like gifts for a long time.

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A **digraph** is two or more consonants that stand for one sound.

th as in then and math

wh as in whale

ng as in sing

sh as in show and hush

tch as in watch

gh as in laugh

ph as in phone

dge as in edge

A. Read each pair of words. Circle the word that contains a digraph. The first one has been done for you.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| 1. <u>shade</u> | six | 4. bigger | badge |
| 2. cars | catch | 5. read | rough |
| 3. wheel | will | | |

When a syllable ends in a vowel, it is called an **open syllable**. Most open syllables have a long vowel sound.

The word **baby** has two open syllables: ba / by

B. Read each word in bold. Circle the answer that shows the word correctly divided into syllables. The first one has been done for you.

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. begin | <u>a.</u> be / gin | b. beg / in |
| 2. lazy | a. laz / y | b. la / zy |
| 3. moment | a. mo / ment | b. mom / ent |
| 4. table | a. tab / le | b. ta / ble |
| 5. prepare | a. pre / pare | b. prep / are |

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A. Read the draft model. Use the questions that follow the draft to help you think about descriptive details you can add.

Draft Model

Our lawn mower is a good machine. It is loud and gives a deep growl when you turn it on. When the grass is shaggy, I use the lawn mower to give the grass a haircut. It is a very helpful machine to have around.

1. In the first sentence what is a better word than “good” to describe a lawn mower?
2. Does the growl of the lawn mower sound like the growls of something else?
3. What does the machine look like?
4. Can you describe how the lawn mower looks or feels when it is cutting the grass?

B. Now revise the draft by adding details to describe the lawn mower.

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The student who wrote the poem below was inspired by two other poems as she responded to the prompt: *Write a limerick or rhyming poem about an invention that flies.*

My flying machine!
Oh, my flying machine.
My glorious, glorious, flying
machine.

It soars like an eagle.
It's almost illegal!

It's a famous invention
That gets all the attention.

The machine's wings are plastic,
Which is pretty fantastic.

My flying machine!
Oh, my flying machine.
It's a powerful, powerful toy.

It can take you to Mars,
Much faster than cars.
This machine is my pride
and my joy!

Reread the passage. Follow the directions below.

1. Draw a box around a simile.
2. Circle an example of descriptive details from the poem.
3. Underline an example of rhyming words.
4. Write an example of a possessive noun on the line.