**Rhyming Couplet**

A [rhyming couplet](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk/couplets-workshop.php) is a poem composed of pairs of lines of (approximately) the same length that rhyme and complete one thought.

Rhyming couplets are one of the simplest rhyme schemes in poetry. It is believed that this form of poetry first became popular in sonnets in France (hence the French term couplet), however the original origins are not known for sure.  What is known is that this type of poetry has been used for centuries by many of the worlds most reknowned poets.  [*Chaucer*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaucer)*'s*[*The Canterbury Tales*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Canterbury_Tales) (a collection of stories that depict the life and times of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table) are written in rhyming couplets. [John  Dryden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dryden) in the 16–17th century and [Alexander Pope](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Pope) in the 18th century were both well known for their writing in heroic couplets as well.  Children's books are commonly written using rhyming couplets (see excerpt of Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss) as their rhymical patterns help kids familiarize themselves with new vocabulary.  Some of the most creative poets who use rhyming couplets today are rappers like Jay Z and Eninem.

There is no limit to the length of the lines in a Rhyming Couplet, however it is important that the poet is consistent with the meter (beats/line or syllable count) throughout so that the lines flow together.

**Example:** **Willie Goes Poo**


There we were at WalMart when Willie's face turned blue.  (12 syllables)
It happens every time my little brother has to poo.  (14 syllables)

My mother, she starts running with one hand upon her nose. (14)
The smell is so incredible I throw up on her toes. (14)

She doesn't seem to notice far and wide from left to right, (14)
That every person in our aisle has quickly taken flight. (14)

But now, there is a problem which we are quick to see, (13)
While the smell is clearing level 2 our car’s on level 3. (15)

Oh rats! The elevator's full. It seems we have to share. (14)
Two people faint right on the spot.  The rest, they cry for air. (14)

At long LAST the doors slide open, now we all have weeping eyes. (15)
My mother's looking worried she hopes that no one dies. (13)

The parking lot! It seemed to me we’d yet escape the harm, (14)
When the diaper sprang a leak and... poo ran down my Mommy's arm. (15)

But my Mom, she is amazing. Changed his pants quick as a flash. (15)
Said for me to pitch the stink bomb, into the nearest trash. (14)

Now, I love my little brother that anyone can see (14)
But the poo that ran down Mommy's arm then ran all over me. (15)

Of course I could get even putting worms into his bed (14)
But since Willie smiled and hugged me I might share a kiss instead. (15)
                                                                                                    Author Unknown

**Assignment Criteria:**

* Couplet must be a minimum of 10 lines (5 couplets).
* Each line must have (approximately) the same meter (beats/syllables)
* Each pair of lines must rhyme
* The poem must tell a story about some kind of experience (\*\* many romantic poets use this type of poetry to tell their significant other how much they love them)