Jericho Prize

Rhyming picture book examples (classics and newer)

Younger (1–3 or 3–5)

Zeki Loves Mummy by Anna McQuinn and Ruth Hearson *(no dominant rhythm, XAXA rhyme scheme i.e. rhyme on alternate lines)*

Zeki Loves Daddy by Anna McQuinn and Ruth Hearson *(no dominant rhythm, XAXA rhyme scheme)*

Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg *(four beats per line, simple AABB rhyme scheme)*

Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd *(varied rhythm; AABB rhyme scheme)*

Peepo! by Janet and Allan Ahlberg *(chorus: three beats per line, XAXA rhyme scheme; other pages: looser rhythm mixing two and three beats per line, XAXA rhyme scheme)*

The Same But Different Too by Karl Newson and Kate Hindley *(two beats per line, mostly stressed first syllable; XAXA rhyme scheme)*

If I Had a Dinosaur by Gabby Dawnay and Alex Barrow *(varied throughout but dominant rhythm is four beat/three beat/four beat/three beat with XAXA rhyme scheme)*

Older (3-7)

Fruits by Valerie Bloom and David Axtell (some poems work well in picture books – this is one of them) *(four beats per line, AABB rhyme scheme, varied stressed and unstressed endings)*

I Really Want to Shout (and others in the *I Really Want…* series) by Simon Phillip and Lucia Gaggiotti *(four beat/four beat/four beat/three beat, AAAB rhyme scheme, every verse ending with ‘shout’)*

There's a Mouse in my House by Ross Collins *(after varied opening settles into four beats per line, AAAA rhyme scheme i.e. all lines in each verse rhyme)*

The Runaway Pea by Kjartan Poskitt and Alex Willmore *(four beats per line, AABB rhyme scheme)*

The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler *(four beats per line, AABB rhyme scheme, interrupted by repeated refrain 'A Gruffalo? What's a Gruffalo?' which pauses the driving rhythm)*

Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler *(two beats per line, mostly XAXA rhyme scheme)*

The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler *(four beats per line regularly interspersed with two beats per line, AABB rhyme scheme)*

The Smartest Giant in Town Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler *(mostly not a rhyming text, but the giant's cumulative song is in rhyme: four beats per line apart from three beats for the penultimate line, using internal rhymes i.e. the end of the line rhymes with the middle of the line)*

The Lion Inside by Rachel Bright and Jim Field *(laid out mostly as two beats per line, XAXA rhyme scheme, although it can be laid out as four beats per line, AABB rhyme scheme, as we did in our exercise)*

Non-rhyming use of poetic forms in picture book format

Free verse set in picture book format

(Note: because of the content and the symbolic language in the texts below, we feel they are more suited to older children in upper KS2, even though the publisher will always market them as picture books in the 3-to-7 sweet spot.)

The Undefeated by Kwame Alexander and Kadir Nelson (8+) *(varied rhythms, mostly uses assonance and alliteration rather than rhyme)*

John Agard's Windrush Child (8+) *(varied rhythms, intermittent rhymes)*