Bed in Summer
by Robert Louis Stevenson

In Winter I get up at night
And dress by yellow candle light.
In Summer, quite the other way,
I have to go to bed by day.

I have to go to bed and see
The birds still hopping on the tree,
Or hear the grown-up people's feet
Still going past me in the street.

And does it not seem hard to you,
When all the sky is clear and blue,
And I should like so much to play,
To have to go to bed by day?

Rhyme

Two words rhyme when the last part of the words sound the same. In poetry, words at the end of a line often rhyme. In this poem, "night" and "light" rhyme and "way" and "day" rhyme. The rhyming words must sound the same, but do not have to be spelled the same way, like "you" and "blue."

Find three rhyming words not in the poem for the words listed below.

Examples of correct answers:

way
may, tray, lay, say, gray, pray

see
bee, glee, he, she, we, key, knee

you
true, shoe, boo, do, knew, who

Rhythm

Rhythm is the beat of the words in a poem. When we say words out loud, we stress some sounds and not others. Rhythm in poetry is important. It makes the words flow in a pleasant way.

Here is the rhythm in the first line of this poem. The stressed sounds are in capital letters, the unstressed words are in small letters.

in WINter I get UP at NIGHT

Say the sentence out loud to hear the rhythm. Now, try saying in the opposite way, putting the stress on the wrong sounds.

IN winTER i GET up AT night

The rhythm is wrong, and the words sound silly.

Here is the second line of the poem with the stressed sounds.

and DRESS by YELLow CANdle LIGHT.

Write the following lines from the poem. Capitalize the sounds that are stressed. Write the unstressed sounds in small letters.

And does it not seem hard to you,
and DOES it NOT seem HARD to YOU,

When all the sky is clear and blue,
when ALL the SKY is CLEAR and BLUE,

And I should like so much to play,
and I should LIKE so MUCH to PLAY,

To have to go to bed by day?
to HAVE to GO to BED by DAY?