What’s the Scheme?

The rhyme scheme of a poem means the pattern of the rhymes. In labeling a rhyme scheme, each line is assigned a letter. Lines that rhyme get the same letter. For example, in a quatrain (a four-line stanza), if the first two lines rhyme, and the last two lines rhyme, the rhyme scheme is AABB. If the first and third lines rhyme and the second and fourth lines rhyme, the rhyme scheme is ABAB. Sometimes there are lines in a poem that don’t rhyme with any other lines. In a quatrain in which the second and fourth lines rhyme, but the first and third don’t rhyme with anything, the rhyme scheme is ABCB.

Read the poems below. Next to each line, identify the rhyme scheme. The first line of each poem has already been labeled for you.

**Bad Magic**

Molly had a bunny but the bunny wouldn’t hop
Charlie had a go-cart but the go-cart wouldn’t stop
Tina had a parakeet that didn’t sing so well
Nothing’s right! Is everybody under some weird spell?

**Choosing Colors**

I pick purple
Jim picks blue
Kay picks yellow
How about you?
Don picks red
John picks pink
It’s time to play the game, I think!

**Silly Verse**

Fee Fie King Kong
Something about
This poem is wrong!
Ding dong
Give us a shout
Let me know If you figure it out!

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