

## **Slant Rhyme / Hip Hop as Poetry**

### Definitions:

#### **Perfect rhyme** (or true rhyme):

A rhyme in which two (or more) words begin with different consonant sounds, then have identical stressed vowel sounds. Any other following sounds are also identical. Perfect rhymes do *not* have to be spelled the same way. Examples: *rink, wink / gratitude, lattitude*.

#### **Slant Rhyme** (or partial rhyme, off rhyme, half rhyme, near rhyme):

A partial or imperfect rhyme, often using assonance or consonance only. Slant rhymes do *not* have to be spelled in different ways. Examples: *how, row / lovely, funny*.

### Poems / Raps:

#### 1. From **Emily Dickinson's** *Heart, we will forget him!*

Heart, we will forget him!  
You and I, tonight!  
You may forget the warmth he gave,  
I will forget the light!

#### 2. From **Emily Dickinson's** *The Difference Between Despair:*

The Mind is Smooth - no Motion -  
Contented as the Eye  
Upon the Forehead of a Bust -  
That knows - it cannot see.

#### 3. From **Talib Kweli's** song *Memories Live*.

Yo it kind of make me think of way back when,  
I was a portrait of the artist as a young man,  
All those teenage dreams of rapping,  
Writing rhymes on napkins,  
Was really visualization, making this here actually happen,

#### 4. From **Nas's** song *NY State of Mind*

I got so many rhymes I don't think I'm too sane,  
Life is parallel to Hell but I must maintain,  
and be prosperous, though we live dangerous,  
cops could just arrest me, blaming us, we're held like hostages.

### Quote:

"For me such rhymes as, say,  
'swans/stones' or 'gibe/club' or  
'south/both' often sound more beautiful  
and interesting than such hard-rhyme  
combinations as 'bones/stones,'  
'rub/club,' or 'south/mouth.'" - Linguist  
**Robert Pinsky** in his introduction to  
Dante's *Inferno*.