

STUBBORN RHYMES

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It is said that there is no word in English that rhymes with MONTH, but GRUNTH, an alternate spelling of granth, rhymes perfectly in one of its pronunciations. Other rhymes for that word are millionth, billionth, trillionth and zillionth.

In my previous book I provided rhymes for the words ORANGE, PURPLE and SILVER. BLORENGE is the name of an 1,833-foot hill, one of seven in the vicinity of Abergavenny, Wales. The birth names Memory ORANGE (the surname is also a place-name) and Henry Honeychurch GORRINGE are from the collection of George F. Hubbard, of New York City (cited in Paul Dickson's book, *Names*). HIRPLE is a British word meaning "walk lamely" or "hobble"; CURPLE means buttocks or hindquarters, especially of a horse; CHILVER means "ewe lamb" or "mutton" in Britain. It is also a surname, as is WILVER, which was also the surname of baseball legend Willie Stargell.

In spite of what you might have heard
That claim of no rhymes is absurd.
For a month I had dreamt
By my thousandth attempt
I'd find at least one for each word.

In honor of these discoveries, I present this two-part limerick:

There once was a young man named Orange
Who got his toe caught in a door hinge.
Said he, turning purple,
Proceeding to hirple,
"Now how will I get back to Bloreng?"

A passerby named Mr. Wilver
Who traded his horse for a chilver,
Offered Orange the lamb,
But he mounted a ram
And rode home yelling, "Oh, Hiyo Silver!"

Other near-rhymes for ORANGE include SPORANGE, pronounced "sporANJ," (a sporangium), MORE RANGE and FAR RANGE.