

A Collection of Rhyming Palindromes

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RETEP verse

Rhyming, end-to-end, palindromic verse is one of my favourite types of wordplay. Jim Puder has given a good introduction to the form (Word Ways, Vol. 43. Iss. 1 article 10) and Jeff Grant responded soon after with some excellent letter-unit examples, adapted from earlier unrhymed palindromes (Word Ways, Vol. 43. Iss. 4 article 7). Other examples can be found in Word Ways and elsewhere, but they remain rather rare compared with unrhymed forms.

I have tried to develop some original letter-unit RETEPs with regular scanning and rhyming, all while maintaining consistent themes. That, at least, was my aim. Some of my better attempts are shown below.

Word Ways Ode

Was I abler Ed now, aye?
Hero Monte's so golden Word Ways
But, we fret, fade logology away?

Go logo-led after few tubs yaw
Drowned logos set no more
Hey, a wonder, Elba I saw.

Arctic Hunt

Kayak rower, cool Giotto
Set in umiaq,
Auk is no prattle-motto
Melt tarp on sikuaq,
Aim unites Otto,
Igloo crew or kayak.

Reunion of Broken Parts

x I mar be glad
As ye tut “it’s bust”
Sum it if a fix
If a fit I must
Substitute y , sad
Algebra mix.

Relativity

Pal Aniet’s niece’s rap
Net space-time spans star map
Spam rats snap
Semite caps
Ten parsec, Einstein, a lap!

Down and Outcast

Dennis mad at pews’ use
Jeremiah’s if less pinned,
Eden nightlife, rotten game
Vex Eve-magnet, tore filth, ginned,
Eden nips selfish aim
Ere Jesus wept, Adam sinned.

Banker Almighty

Dogma I say at sod
Don’t panic it’s a crash
Sack rower, it is odd
Do sit, I rework cash,
Sarcastic, inapt nod
Do stay, as I am God.

The final two examples follow a tradition of ribald palindromes. Hopefully they will trigger more titters than tuts.

Defying the Hosepipe Ban

Set a bad example
Help mask rebate,
Get a brut sample
Help masturbate,
Get a berk's ample
Help; maxed, abates.

Bacchanalia

Trap, bonks so reekily
As I field dirtily
Am sidling on sod's tart,
Rats do snog, nil dismay
Lit riddle, if I say
Like Eros's knob-part.

Notes

Sikuaq is an Inuit word for thin ice, but unlike kayak and umiaq does not appear to have entered English usage.

Reekily is a derivative from reeky: “adj. Obsolete, rare; blackened with smoke; filthy”; and is found in a quotation from *Hans Beer-pot, his Invisible Comedy of See me and See me not* (translated from Dutch and published in 1618 by the splendidly named dramatist Daubridgecourt Capability Belchier):

“*Bad him goe And wash his face, he lookt so reechilie, Like Bacon hanging on the Chimnies roof*”.

As an adverb, it is found in Scots dialect, such as in *Train Approaching?* by Alistair Heather (<https://discourse.scot/2017/08/09/trains-approaching/>):

“*A solution is chuggin reekily owre the horizon: the Buchan railway line*”.

The slang terms used are generally of British origin.