A Collection of Rhyming Palindromes

TIM HEATH
Wantage, Oxfordshire, UK
timheath@btinternet.com

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 sikuq,
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
Semitic 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 roofe”.

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.