

RAP & HIP-HOP

WITH MAD BEATZ PHILLY

A Guide on Rap & Hip-Hop from the #MannMusicRoom

ABOUT RAP & HIP-HOP

The musical form called rap is basically rhythmic, rhyming speech. Rap is the most important part of a way of life called hip-hop culture. Many people call the music that rappers use hip-hop music.

Rap songs often tell stories about rappers and their backgrounds. Some rappers speak about racism and its effects on African Americans. Most rappers have been men. Some women, such as Queen Latifah, have become successful rap artists as well.

Rap began in the early 1970s in African American neighborhoods in New York City. The first rapper was probably a Jamaican deejay named Kool Herc. (Deejays play recordings at dance clubs.) Kool Herc used two turntables, or record players, to create sound for parties in the Bronx section of New York. As the music played he would “rap,” or talk, to the audience.

In time, other deejays developed the rhyming musical speech that became rap. Early rappers included Afrika Bambaataa and Grandmaster Flash. In 1979 the Sugarhill Gang’s song “Rapper’s Delight” became the first hit rap song.



RHYME SCHEMES

A rhyme scheme is the pattern of rhyme between lines of a poem or song. It is usually referred to by using letters to indicate which lines rhyme; lines designated with the same letter all rhyme with each other. Therefore, it is the pattern of end rhymes or lines. The most basic rhyme schemes are aa, aaa, aabb, abab and abba. There are also more complicated schemes, as ababbcc (rhyme royal), abababcc (ottava rima) or ababbcbcc (Spenserian stanza).

Sonnets may have very different rhyme schemes: Italian (abba abba cde ded, abba abba cde cde, abba abba cde edc), French (abba abba cdcd ee), Spenserian (abab bcbe cdcd ee) or Shakesperian (abab cdcd efef gg).

LABEL THE RHYME SCHEME

Can you identify which rhyme scheme goes with each poem? Give it a shot!

The people along the sand
All turn and look one way.
They turn their back on the land.
They look at the sea all day.

-An excerpt from Robert Frost's poem
Neither Out Far nor in Deep

True friends are by your side through it all.
True friends are there to catch you when you fall.
True friends give your life a happy lift.
True friends are a most precious gift

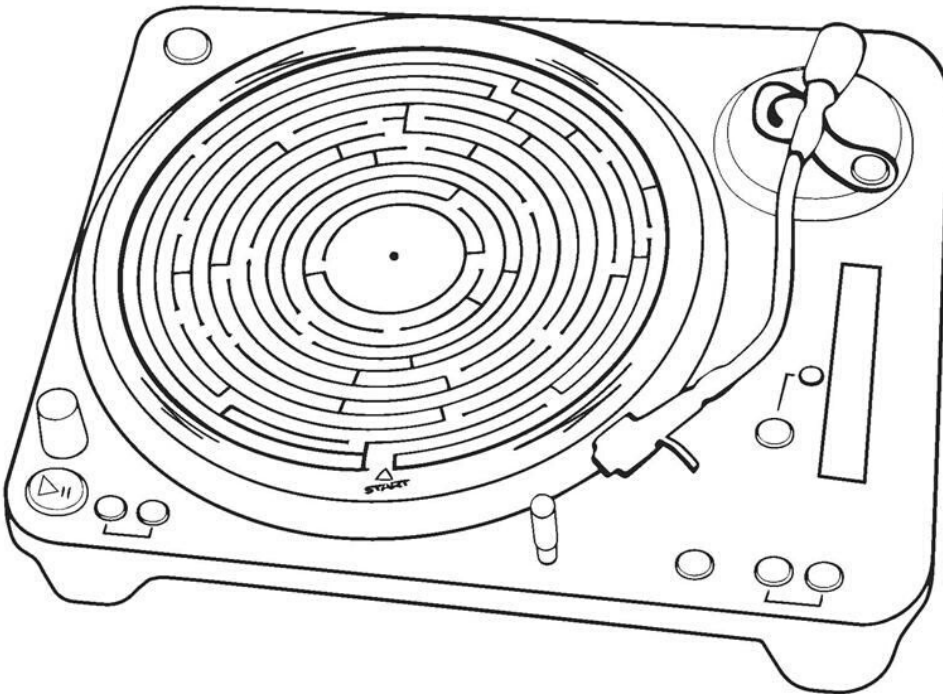
-Dermaid, *True Friends*

On the fifteenth of May, in the jungle of Nool,
In the heat of the day, in the cool of the pool,
He was splashing... enjoying the jungle's great joys...
When Horton the elephant heard a small noise.

-Dr. Seuss, *Horton Hears a Who!*

RECORD MAZE

Can you find your way to the center of the record?



DJING:

A major component of hip hop in the early 1970s was DJing. Using multiple turn tables with the same record, the DJ would be able to change a song - make it repeat, make it longer or even scratch. They may be backing one or more MCs who would rap along side the music.

LABEL THE RHYME SCHEME

Can you identify which rhyme scheme goes with each poem? Give it a shot!

The people along the sand(A).
All turn and look one way(B).
They turn their back on the land(A).
They look at the sea all day(B).

-An excerpt from Robert Frost's poem
Neither Out Far nor in Deep

ABAB

True friends are by your side through it all(A).
True friends are there to catch you when you fall(A).
True friends give your life a happy lift(B).
True friends are a most precious gift(B).

-Dermaid, *True Friends*

AABB

On the fifteenth of May(A), in the jungle of Nool(B).
In the heat of the day(A), in the cool of the pool(B).
He was splashing... enjoying the jungle's great joys(C)...
When Horton the elephant heard a small noise(C).

-Dr. Seuss, *Horton Hears a Who!*

ABABCC

BONUS COLORING!

