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.