

Hip Hop Rhymes:
A writing challenge by Navid Najafi

I am I be

Part 1: Who are you?

Describe yourself in three words.
(eg. compassionate, honest, powerful)

What is your favorite thing to do?
(write lyrics)

What are your greatest strengths?
(open minded, writing, take care of my family)

List a few of your heroes.
(My dad, Bruce Lee, Bob Marley)

List three of your favorite works of nature.
(thunderstorms, the ocean, the sun)

Now complete four 'I am I be' phrases using some of your answers above.

I am

I be

I am

I be

I am

I be

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I am
I be

Example:

I am compassionate
I be taking care of my family

I am the ocean
I be open minded

I am Bob Marley
I be writing lyrics

Part 2: Put it on a beat!

1) Take the last word of your favorite 'I am I be' phrase and list as many words as you can that rhyme with it. They don't have to be perfect rhymes and you can take some artistic liberty as long as you can make them sound like they rhyme. You can also use phrases. Be creative!

Family: battery, tragedy, actually, annually, calamity, alchemy, commonality, center of gravity, virtual reality, Milky Way galaxy, personality, hospitality, humanity.

2) Put on the beat and write your rap!

Start with your favorite 'I am I be' then write a third line which may or may not rhyme with your first line. It's up to you if the third line rhymes but it should try to continue the thought/meaning of your first two lines. On the fourth line you will select one of the rhyming words you just listed and use it to complete your four line rhyming rap! Use cleverness and creativity to link your rhyming word. The idea is for it to flow and also make sense. You can use artistic liberty once again and change any part of your rap

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that doesn't make sense or flow the way you want. You don't have to stick to the 'I am I be' structure. Pay close attention to the message you are presenting to your listeners. You can continue this pattern to write as many lines as you can. Two lines are known in hip hop terminology as one bar (one measure of music). So four written lines are 2 bars, generally. Remember, there is no one right way to do this, it's all about your creativity and style. What you are trying to say and how you play with the words are always up to you. Be original!

This method of listing rhyming words is very useful. You can also use the many rhyming dictionaries available online. Have fun!

My Example Rap:

I am compassionate
Taking care of family
I got their back always
Charging up their battery
Right, They center me like gravity
Uh, My father is my galaxy
Yeah, My mother is the ocean
Remind me of reality, to keep my mind open
I'm hoping, to make them all proud, so I speak it real loud, like a thunderstorm cloud,
spit words of fire that could bring the sun down!

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