In the Beasty Boy’s “Intergalactic Planetary and Shane Koyczan’s “To this day,” the speakers use rhythmic structure to emphasize the importance of their points. In both works, rhythm is using to focus the attention of the viewer on a thematic end rhyme. In “Intergalactic Planetary,” the beasty Boys use end rhyme to emphasize their master of rap structure. For example, “Don’t you tell me to smile/ you turn around I’ll make it worth you while.” Here the speakers are antagonizing the viewer and attempting to engage them in a rap battle. Similarly, in “To this day,” the speaker says “I wasn’t the kid who grew up this way/surrounded by people who used to say / that rhyme about sticks and stones.” By talking about this rhyme the speaker calls the attention of the viewer to the rhythmic purpose of the line. The rhyme “say” becomes important because he ends this line here and because the power of words are the topic of his poem. We are reminded of the speaker’s reference to his painful story about “pork chops” because of the emphasis he places on this rhyme.

By contrast, these poems differ in how their rhyming schemes create a theme. The Beasty Boys rhyme every line of their stanzas. This has the effect of punctuating each line, drawing attention away from a central meaning or theme. In “To this day,” the rhyming structure is more random, but each rhyme draws attention to the poem’s central purpose. For example, “…had a personality made up of tests and pills/ lived like the uphills were mountains and the down hills were cliffs. Here, the speaker uses a half-rhyme to call attention to the hills people with mental illness must climb every day. The speaker uses these rhymes to give power to words that seem ordinary. A pill can become a mountain and hill can become the origin of a great fall. This message is accentuated by the rhyming structure in the poem and the speaker uses this structure to emphasize the importance of his words.