

# Alliteration and Assonance

**Alliteration** is when a writer repeats the consonant sounds at the beginnings of words. For example, in "My puppy punched me in the eye," the words "**p**uppy **p**unched" are alliterative because they both begin with "p."

**Assonance** is when a writer repeats the vowel sounds in the stressed syllables of words. For example, in the line "My rabbit whacked my ear," the words "**r**abbit wh**a**cked" are an example of assonance because they both contain a "short a" sound on the stressed syllable.

Alliteration and assonance do not have to have the same *letters*; just the same sounds. So for example, "**f**alling **ph**one" is alliterative, and "**f**lying **h**igh" is assonant, because they repeat the same sounds even though they don't repeat the same letters.

## Exercise:

1. Read the following poem.
2. **Underline** the alliterative words in each line.
3. **Circle** the assonant words in each line.

**Hint:** Sometimes words can be *both* alliterative and assonant.

## My Puppy Punched Me In the Eye

My puppy punched me in the eye.  
My rabbit whacked my ear.  
My ferret gave a frightful cry  
and roundhouse kicked my rear.

My lizard flipped me upside down.  
My kitten kicked my head.  
My hamster slammed me to the ground  
and left me nearly dead.

So my advice? Avoid regrets;  
no matter what you do,  
don't ever let your family pets  
take lessons in kung fu.

— Kenn Nesbitt