

science
RHYMES

by 28th July

Small

Tiny
Nano

**Poems for
SCIENCE WEEK 2025**

feedback@sciencerhymes.com.au

www.sciencerhymes.com.au

Small Tiny Nano

**Discover a detail
- a smidgen of science -
on something that's
SMALLER than YOU.**

**Put in a poem
or stanza that rhymes,
or maybe a tiny Haiku.**

**Send it by email
to feedback at Science Rhymes
dot com dot au – and THANK YOU!**

feedback@sciencerhymes.com.au

Can you write a science poem?

- 2025 is the United Nations International Year of QUANTUM SCIENCE.
- Science Rhymes is calling for YOUR POEMS about SMALL, TINY or NANO things.
- Successful submissions will appear on an **ITTYVERSE** blog in August, as our way of poetically celebrating SCIENCE WEEK.

Can't come up with your own Poem? Use ChatGPT to help!

- Ask an adult/parent to sign you into OpenAI's ChatGPT or equivalent AI program.
- Give it a prompt eg: "write a short rhyming poem about"
- Remember, **AI responses aren't always TRUE.** You'll need to fact-check, then edit or tweak!
- AI assisted poem submissions have some **CONDITIONS.** Please read following page.

AI assisted conditions:

- Include the words **& ChatGPT** (or other AI used) after your name(s) and poem title.
- Include your **answers to the following 4 questions** with your poem submission.
- Were you:
 1. Delighted or disappointed with what AI came up with? (**score out of ten**)
 2. Did you **edit** ChatGPT's response?
 3. What sort of prompt did you use – **simple** or **specific**?
 4. Would you be **happy** to do it again next year?
- Limit of 4 rhyming verses or one Haiku.

Poem from Japan

- A TRUE HAIKU is written in Japanese
- English is in 3 lines
- With 5 – 7 – 5 beats
- No need to rhyme
- Capturing a MOMENT or an ESSENCE of the topic

Author: [Matsuo Basho](#)

[Japanese]

閑けさや 岩にしみいる 蝉の声

Shizukesa ya/ Iwa ni shimiiru/ Semi no koe

[English]

Oh, tranquility! 5 beats

Penetrating the very rock, 7 beats

A cicada's voice. 5 beats

Translated by Helen Craig McCullough

ChatGPT's

PEACOCK SPIDER by Celia & ChatGPT

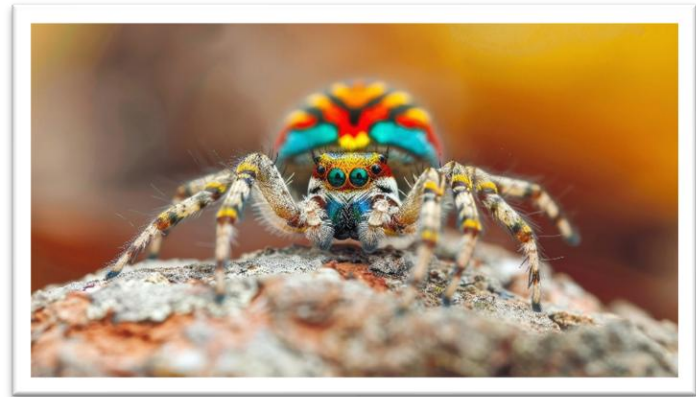
Dancing in the sun,
Colours flash in wild display—
Nature's bright lantern.

1. Quite pleased 6/10
2. No editing
3. Simple
4. Yes

Celia's

PEACOCK SPIDER

Tiny spiders dance –
Snazzy tail and jerky legs
Catch a female's eye.



What will you choose? Some examples & clues!

- Explore Scale of the Universe for ideas
- Choose an Animal, Vegetable or Mineral – as long as it's SMALLER THAN YOU
- It could be something microscopic (cells, microbes, nanotubes, buckyballs ...)
- Maybe explain what NANO means
- Something about the QUANTUM realm

Here are my **human-made**
Science Rhymes examples:

1. **THE SEAHORSE** (*small* CREATURE)
2. **INSECT OLYMPICS** (*small* CREATURES)
3. **SNOWFLAKE NUCLEATION** (*tiny* WATER CRYSTALS)
4. **STAYING ALIVE** (*tiny* MICROBES)
5. **ELECTRON RELAY RACE** (*nano* ELECTRONS)
6. **QUANTUM FOOLERY** (*nano* BEWARE)

1. RHYMING SHAPE POEM

This poem is from the book **Science Rhymes in the Sea** due for publication later this year.



THE SEAHORSE

by Celia Berrell

The Seahorse- such A
Charming fish!
so dainty finned
with horsey
heads they'll
hide among the
seaweed beds.
With spiny plates
instead of scales
they swim
in pairs
while
hold
-ing
tai

to the end
-ls that curl and bend right

Science Rhymes in the Sea

2.

Has anyone watched
the Insect Olympics?
Condition of entry
was legs: numbered six.

Mantis won boxing
with high-powered flicks.
Grasshopper's high-jump
used long back-leg kicks.

Click-beetle gymnasts
were flipping and twisting.
Impressing the judges
with somersault tricks.

In the pond, beetle swimmers
and divers and skimmers
in costumes that shimmered
all claimed THEY had won!

INSECT OLYMPICS

by Celia Berrell



[Australian Children's Poetry](#)

3.

Fabulous flecks
of feather-white fluff
gracefully fall
from a frozen sky.

But moisture and cold
aren't quite enough
to make water vapour
solidify.

Most of those freezing
flakes of snow
use something alive
on which to grow.

Those Jack Frost patterns
will only start
when a microbe lies
at a snowflake's heart.

© Celia Berrell 2025

SNOWFLAKE NUCLEATION

by Celia Berrell



Christmastime Rhymes

Small Tiny Nano / National Science Week 2025
www.sciencerhymes.com.au

4.

Somewhere below the sea-bed
beneath its silica-sand
trapped in a layer of silt-mud
lives something rather grand.

We've found these sleeping microbes
that awoke when they were fed.
Bacteria so ancient,
you'd think they should be dead.

With scarce food for survival,
just hibernation's pause,
have microbes here been staying alive
since the Age of Dinosaurs?

STAYING ALIVE

by Celia Berrell



First published in [Double Helix](#) #71

5.

Two metals and an acid can
create a battery cell.
Its chemical reactions make
electrons leave their shell.

With plus and minus terminals
connected by a wire
those negative electrons shunt
their charge around like flyers.

As each electron only moves
the tiniest of space
it passes on its pack of charge
just like a relay-race.

Their energy's electric
with the power to zap a cat,
unless the circuit's broken or
the battery goes flat.

© Celia Berrell 2025

ELECTRON RELAY RACE

by Celia Berrell



The Science Rhymes Book

Small Tiny Nano / National Science Week 2025
www.sciencerhymes.com.au

6.

We use the word QUANTUM when talking of atoms: their tiniest particles, functions and actions.

Some quantum effects don't appear to be logical. Light can behave like a wave AND a particle!

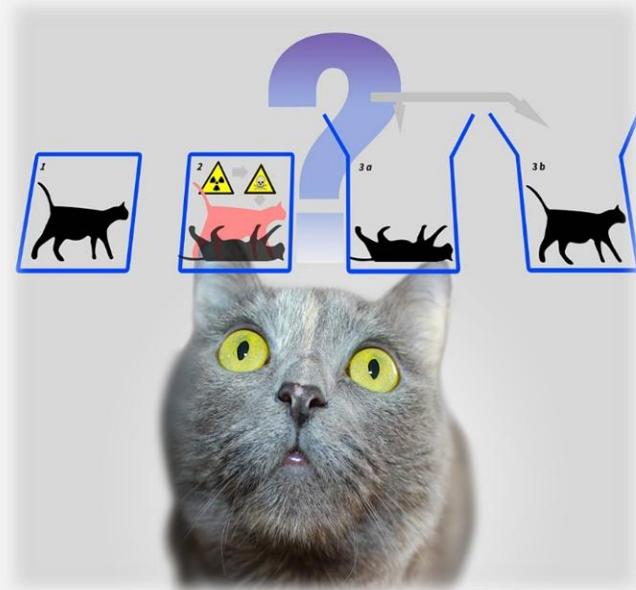
There's quantum mechanics and quantum in physics. But everything QUANTUM won't be scientific.

Some adverts use QUANTUM expecting our trust, when really, they're just attempting to fool us!

© Celia Berrell 2025

QUANTUM FOOLERY

by Celia Berrell



Small Tiny Nano / National Science Week 2025
www.sciencerhymes.com.au

Email your poem by Monday 28th July
to: **feedback@sciencerhymes.com.au**

- If you used ChatGPT or equivalent, write “by [your name] & [ChatGPT]”.
- Rhyming poems up to 4 verses are ideal.
- School students: please provide an adult email address for replies.
- Check your poem for scientific accuracy before sending.
- Some editing may be offered in order to publish your poem.

**Your successful poems
will feature on the**

ITTYVERSE

**A Science Rhymes blog
celebrating
NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK 2025**

feedback@sciencerhymes.com.au