

The regular placing of the stresses in these lines and the closeness of the rhymes creates a confident rhythm that suggests the natural strength of the wife. It also reminds us of the chorus of a folk song telling this sad story of the farmer and his bride.

Mew varies her rhyming to suit her purpose. For example, the last line of the first stanza is a sentence on its own but also the completion of a **rhyming couplet**, giving this moment – the wife's escape – dramatic emphasis. Mew even uses some rhyming triplets to strengthen the drama of moments in the narrative.



## STRETCHIT!

Write a paragraph exploring how Mew uses rhythm and rhyme for effect in lines 38–41.

## REVIEW



## IT!

- 1 For how long has the farmer been married?
- 2 When did the farmer's wife run away?
- 3 Why does Mew say the wife 'runned away' instead of 'ran away'?
- 4 List three words or phrases that suggest that the wife is trapped.
- 5 In the second stanza, what is suggested by the wife's 'wide brown stare'?
- 6 What is the wife like as a housekeeper?
- 7 Why is the farmer not enthusiastic about Christmas?
- 8 What colour is the wife's hair?
- 9 How do we feel about the farmer by the end of the poem?
- 10 Why do you think Mew repeats so many words in the final stanza?

## DO IT!



- Add your own annotations to the poem, exploring more of its details and their effects. Include the underlined words or phrases.
- Online you will find a copy of the poem with more detailed annotations.



## AQA exam-style question

Compare how poets present ideas about unequal relationships in 'The Farmer's Bride' and in one other poem from Love and relationships.

[30 marks]