

AUDITORIUM

Your scuba gear is like a ticket to a theater.
Inside, the light is low, and what you do
is look and listen for things you've never seen.
The ocean's wrapped around you in circles
and circles of sound and life. The rocking sea
astounds you. Sounds of movement vibrate
through your bones as water amplifies it all.
Echoes weave through life in shells, in shoals,
in flower-feathered animals abounding.

New rhythm pounds with yours. Some sounds change
to minor keys. Down here the noise is older,
rhymes are louder, bolder, rumbling out of mounds
of corals building up the reef.
All of their designs once fed and bred
then left their layered skeletons to others
who would follow. You and your diving partners
have found a dozen living species, always
leaving them undisturbed to do their work.

Ashore, you think about the shades and shapes
of underwater music: How the moray eel frowned
and snapped his hunger on an iridescent fish.
A turtle carapace, browned with moss,
just skittered through the theme.
A parrot fish gnawed on the reef, strong jaws
ground coral into sand. A flounder
hollowed out a bottom hiding place. The dark
was filled with unseen appetites-- downed by day,
they lay in wait to hound the night.
And as it neared, the tones grew rounder, fuller,
like the pressure of the flowing song inside you.
Sea music can't be drowned-out once you've sung
duets with life's most ancient sound.

--Glenna Holloway

The form of the poem is called a "Bull's-eye." See how many
rhymes and especially how many target rhymes you can find.
The target sound is SOUND. Rhyming words may be plural or
otherwise enclose the target sound.

Answer: around, astounds, abounding, pounds, mounds, found,
frowned, browned, ground, flounder, downed, hound, rounder,
drowned.

Regular rhymes: you/do; older/bolder/; fed/bred; day/lay

Slant rhymes: like/look; shells/shoals; living/leaving; song/sung