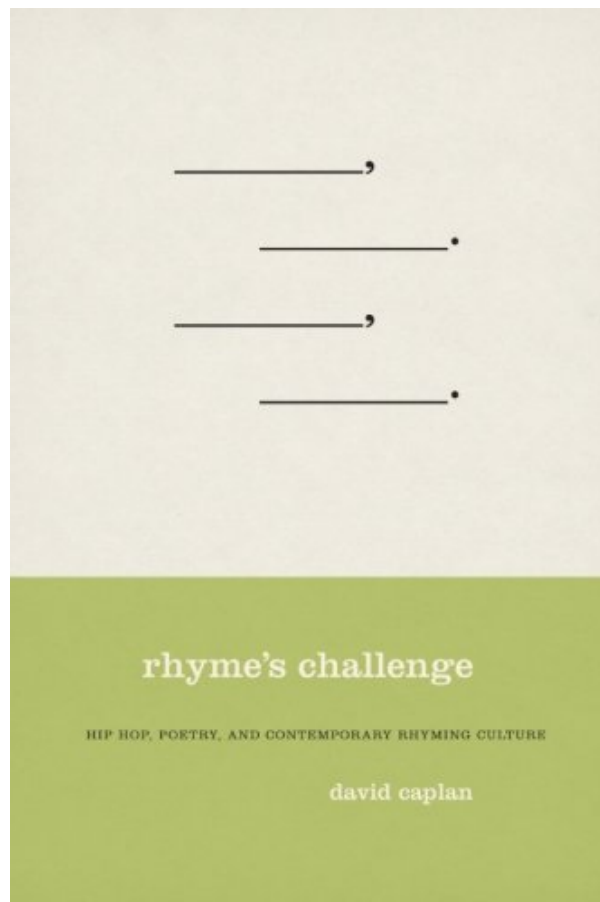
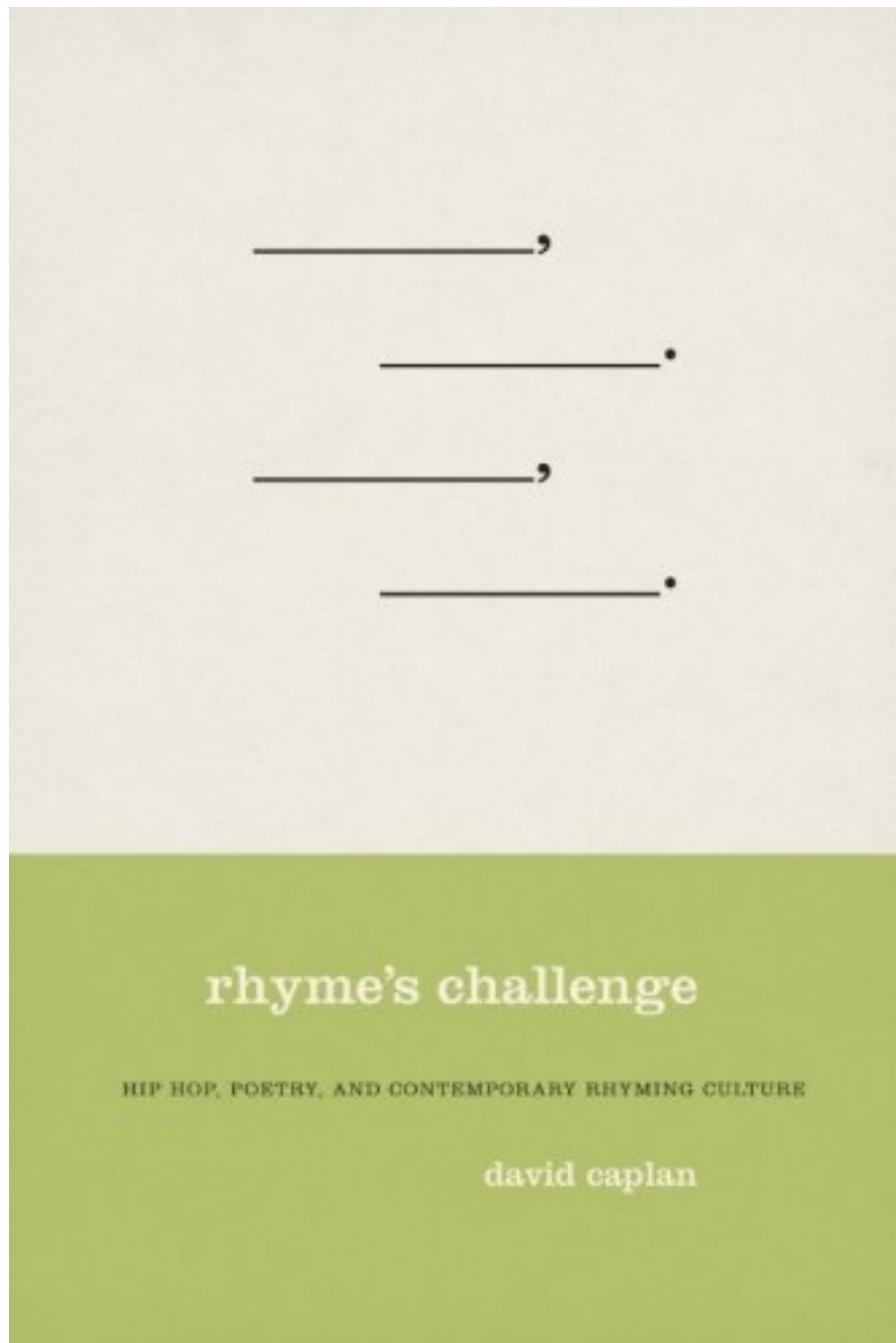


RHYME'S CHALLENGE: HIP HOP, POETRY, AND CONTEMPORARY RHYMING CULTURE BY DAVID CAPLAN



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Rhyme's Challenge: Hip Hop, Poetry, And Contemporary Rhyming Culture By David Caplan.

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Rhyme's Challenge offers a concise, pithy primer to hip-hop poetics while presenting a spirited defense of rhyme in contemporary American poetry. David Caplan's stylish study examines hip-hop's central but supposedly outmoded verbal technique: rhyme. At a time when print-based poets generally dismiss formal rhyme as old-fashioned and bookish, hip-hop artists deftly deploy it as a way to capture the contemporary moment. Rhyme accommodates and colorfully chronicles the most conspicuous conditions and symbols of contemporary society: its products, technologies, and personalities. Ranging from Shakespeare and Wordsworth to Eminem and Jay-Z, David Caplan's study demonstrates the continuing relevance of rhyme to poetry -- and everyday life.

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A pretty interesting study of the versatility and evolution of rhyme ...

By Mr. Richard K. Weems

A pretty interesting study of the versatility and evolution of rhyme through the medium of hip-hop but ultimately about how rhyme is still a poetic form with a lot of potentiality, despite (or maybe even because of) the more contemporary avoidance of it in published poetry. The view here is primarily textual, with amusingly technical breakdowns of lyrics by the likes of Jay-Z, Eminem and Big Daddy Kane, but of course this technical discussion is what makes the argument so solid. The larger interesting question this book engenders but doesn't pursue is why rap and poetry have so alienated each other. Caplan does present us with some published poets who do use hip-hop as an influence, but also the division between the media, where poets and even lawmakers consider rhyme a lower form unworthy of higher art. Anyone looking to tackle this larger concern, and how it might debase both sides of the argument, should go to this book as a first, authoritative stop.

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