

This is a poem about. . . .

This is a poem about repetition,
about repetition as a poetic device,
about repetition as an effective
poetic device when used with purpose—
when used, that is, with purpose and
(we should add) with some skill.

Used with a purpose and with some skill
repetition can be an effective poetic device.
But don't overdo it. And do try
to introduce a little variation too
at least once in a while
since often that element of variation
when introduced once in a while
will make your repetition
even more effective: more effective
because it has become
a bit less repetitive.

And of course never repeat just
for its own sake

Let's say that again to stress
its importance:
Never repeat just for its own sake,

any more than you want to rhyme
just for its own sake.
Rhyme only when the right time
arrives, and in a way that seems natural.
Likewise, for your sake
and for that of your readers
only use repetition
when it serves a proper purpose.

In short: Use repetition,
but for goodness sake
do it with a purpose.

Steve Bloom
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