

How to succeed

Use rhyme, dear boy, use rhyme and then in time,
when you've used rhyme the time will come
when rhyme is no longer necessary,
when those you hoped in time, by using rhyme,
to impress, subdue, inoculate and dazzle,
will agree — and yes, they will!
— agree among themselves,
in quiet and quite wistful
(and quite envious) gatherings
(by email, phone or even post)
that, yes, the lad has talent,
good lord but does the lad have talent!
and, yes, good lord, but does the lad quite simply know
what it is and how
to sparkle, sparkle, sparkle
subdue, impress and inoculate himself
against the undue, unfair, unwise and quite
unwarranted cynicism that it's all just a pose,
all nothing but an act, that
all that supposed poetry
is just a mealy posturing, an overflow of vanity
and nothing — nothing! — more.

Avoid all that, dear boy, avoid all that
by using rhyme.