

SUMMARY :

'One need not be a Chamber to be Haunted' is a five-stanza poem that is separated into sets of four lines, also known as quatrains. The lines do not follow a specific or consistent pattern of rhyme. Instead, they are unified through a variety of half and full lines. For instance, the second and fourth lines of stanzas two, three, and five end with full rhymes. The same lines in stanzas one and four are only half-rhymes, both rhyme with a consonant sound, also known as consonance.

The poem begins with the speaker stating that the human mind can become haunted much more easily than a room or house can. They have a greater capacity for absorbing experiences and a larger number of "Corridors" where something could lurk (hide).

Throughout the next lines, Dickinson's speaker addresses the difference between physical and mental threats. One can run from, defend against, or defeat real-world threats. The ones inside the human mind are less easily accessible. This does not make them less dangerous though, in fact, they present a greater threat due to their invisibility.