

## Rhymed Twenty-Two

How Do I Unconditionally Love You?

When love is not judged and counted,  
is freely given and not accounted,  
how can I count the many ways  
for my joy and my constant praise?

When mistakes are forgiven, hurts are healed.  
how can I condemn those lives not unfurled  
to standards I care less about  
and except for basics are still in doubt?

When loved ones unconditionally loved.  
You hold them tight, firm and un-gloved.  
When they're distant and pull away.  
you home your heart, invite to stay.

When love's not withheld by how they behave,  
or by their obedience, by what they gave,  
all the love math is not numbered  
you can find words unencumbered.

Get your expectations out of the way.  
They can live their own lives and say,  
"No matter what, I have your love and support  
and don't need to camouflage or report."

Then you know you don't have to count.  
Your love account balance will only mount.

**Rhymed Twenty-Two.** An expanded sonnet.

Syllable Count: 8 or 10 syllables. You can vary count. 14 lines. Experiment with rhyme schemes and stanza combinations.

Rhyme Scheme for this Sonnet: a-a-b-b c-c-d-d e-e-f-f g-g-h-h i-i-j-j- k-k