

## Sound effects in poetry

**Alliteration**—the repetition of speech sounds in nearby words (being born a boy, he was ebullient)

**Onomatopoeia**—the use of a word that sounds like its referent (buzz, crack)

### Rhyme

**Proper rhyme**—the match of final consonant and vowel sounds (mood/brood; relation/sensation)

**End rhyme**—the rhyming of sounds at the end of two or more poetic lines

**Internal rhyme**—rhyme within a poetic line

**Off-rhyme, half rhyme, near rhyme, slant rhyme**—rhyme in which the concluding vowel or consonantal sound does not rhyme (gone/alone; room/storm)

**Rime riche**—rhyming the exact same word or sound (grate/great; mat/mat)

### Rhythm

English poetry uses accentual-syllabic meter

˘ / ˘ ˘ ˘ / ˘ / ˘ / ˘ ˘ ˘ / ˘ ˘ ˘ / ˘ /

A poem is a composition written for performance by the human voice.

˘ \ ˘ / ˘ / ˘ \ ˘ / ˘ /

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times . . .

Feet: (clusters of two or three syllables defined by their accentual pattern)

○ / Iambic (New York)  
/ ○ Trochaic (London)  
○ ○ / Anapestic (Tennessee)  
/ / ○ Dactylic (Leningrad)  
// Spondaic  
○ ○ Pyrrhic

Monometer --A line comprised of 1 foot  
Dimeter 2 feet  
Trimeter 3  
Tetrameter 4  
Pentameter 5  
Hexameter 6  
Heptameter 7  
Octameter 8

A group of lines either set apart on the page or defined as a group by virtue of a poem's rhyme scheme:

Couplet -- 2 lines  
Tercet 3  
Quatrain 4  
Sestet 6  
Octave 8

Some standard sonnet rhyme schemes:

Italian (Petrarchan)	English (Shakespearian)	Spenserian
a	a	a
b	b	b
b	a	a
a	b	b
a	c	b
b	d	c
b	c	b
a	d	c
c	e	c
d	f	d
e	e	c
	f	d
c	g	e
d	g	e
e		

Masculine rhyme: rhyme of final stressed syllable in a line (mad, bad)

Feminine rhyme: two final syllables rhyme, where the second is unaccented  
(shining, lining)

Some lines to practice scanning--

1. London bridge is falling down . . .
2. A crowd flowed over London bridge . . .
3. Piping down the valleys wild  
Piping songs of pleasant glee . . .
4. The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold . . .
5. Woman much missed, how you call to me, call to me . . .
6. Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them . . .
7. I went into a theater as sober as could be,  
They gave a drunk civilian room, but 'adn't none for me . . .
8. Till the Spinner of the Years  
Said "Now!" And each one hears,  
And consummation comes, and jars two hemispheres.
9. I can hardly misconceive you; it would prove me deaf and blind;  
But although I take your meaning, 'tis with such a heavy mind!
10. The land was ours before we were the land's.  
She was our land more than a hundred years  
Before we were her people . . .
11. Listen! you hear the grating roar  
Of pebbles which the waves draw back, and fling . . .