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# *DC English IV*

## *World/British Literature*

*Teacher: Mr. Smith, room 1217*

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# Poetic Devices

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- **Rhythm** is the internal beat in a line of poetry; deals with pauses in spoken languages and strategic stresses of words. Every poet seeks out a sense of rhythm in their work.
- know how to count the **feet** per line of poems; a majority of poems are composed with an internalized meter in a poem.

The unit of measurement is called a **foot**. Depending on the complexity of the meter, the number of syllables dictates the size of the foot.

In simplest terms, the most common form is called **iambic pentameter** which consists of five feet per line.



# Poetic Devices

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To put this in another manner, **meter** is measured in **feet** which are units of measurement dealing with stressed *and* unstressed syllables.

Depending on the type of feet dictates the number of syllables per foot.

## Four Types of Feet

Iambic

Trochaic

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Dactylic

Anapestic



these are based on *two* syllables per foot and are easier to recognize; iambic in fact is the most common type of foot; it is used frequently in English poetry

com • poun<sup>ˈ</sup>d  
w<sup>ı</sup>ch • craft



these are based on *three* syllables per foot and are a little more difficult to create; in the ancient poetry of Greece and Rome however these are more frequently used and easier to identify

m<sup>ú</sup>r • mur • ing  
In • the • night



# Poetic Devices

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Iambic— is defined by words which contain a stress on the second syllable.

Pentameter—is the number of feet.

**Sonnets**, which we will cover later, use this primarily.

Shall *I* | compare | thee *to* | a *sum* | mer's *day*

1

2

3

4

5



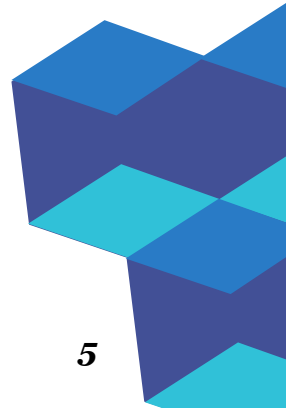
# Poetic Devices

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A **trochaic** meter is defined by words which contain a stress on the first syllable. Emily Dickinson uses this on occasion.

*Witch* craft | *was* hung, | *in* His | *to* ry,  
*But* His | *to* ry | *and* I  
*Find* all | *the* Witch | *craft* that | *we* need  
*A* round | *us*, eve | *ry* Day —

Counting the feet in the above example we find she is using an alternating rhythm of **trochaic tetrameter** and **trochaic trimeter**.



# Poetic Devices

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monometer	1 foot
dimeter	2 feet
trimeter	3 feet
tetrameter	4 feet
pentameter	5 feet

hexameter	6 feet
heptameter	7 feet
octameter	8 feet
nonameter	9 feet
decameter	10 feet

# Poetic Devices

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## Example of **iambic monometer**:

Thus I  
Passe by,  
And die:  
As one  
Unknown  
And gon:  
I'm made  
A shade,  
And laid  
I'th' grave:  
There have  
My cave  
Where tell  
I dwell.  
*Farewell.*

—Robert Herrick “Upon His Departure Hence”

# Poetic Devices

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Example of **iambic dimeter**:

When up | aloft  
I fly | and fly,  
I see | in pools  
The shin | ing sky,  
And a | hap py | bird < *extra half foot*  
Am I, | am I!

When I descend  
Toward the brink  
I stand and look  
And stop and drink  
And bathe my wings,  
And chink, and prink.

When winter frost  
Makes earth as steel,  
I search and search  
But find no meal,  
And most unhappy < *extra half foot*  
Then I feel. < *minus .5 foot*

But when it lasts,  
And snows still fall,  
I get to feel  
No grief at all  
For I turn to a cold, stiff < *extra 1.5 feet*  
Feathery ball!

—Thomas Hardy “The Robin”





# Poetic Devices

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## **Stanza:**

group lines in a full poem; undefined, unregulated length; in some cases the different poetry formulas dictate size of stanzas

## **Penultimate Stanza:**

next to last stanza

### **Stanza Types / Line Count**

half line	=	<b>hemistich</b>
one line	=	<b>monostich</b>
two lines	=	<b>couplet</b>
three lines	=	<b>tercet</b>
four lines	=	<b>quatrain</b>
five lines	=	<b>cinquain or quintain</b>
six lines	=	<b>sestet or hexastich</b>
seven lines	=	<b>septet or heptastich</b>
eight lines	=	<b>octet or octave</b>
ten lines	=	<b>dizain</b>

