**Meter**

**Meter**

* Meter is the systematic regularity in rhythm.
* It is usually identified by examining the type of “foot” and the number of feet.

**Poetic Foot**

* The traditional line of metered poetry contains a number of rhythmical units, which are called feet.
* The feet in a line are distinguished as a recurring pattern of two or three syllables (apple has 2 syllables, banana has 3, etc.).
* The pattern or foot is designated according to the number of syllables contained, and the relationship in each foot between the strong and weak syllables.
* \_ = indicates a stressed (or strong or LOUD) syllable.
* U=indicates an unstressed (or weak, or quiet) syllable.
* In other words, any line of poetry with a systematic rhythm has a certain number of feet, and each foot has two or three syllables with a constant beat pattern.
* There are several types.

**Iamb (Iambic)**

* Weak syllable followed by strong syllable.
* Shakespeare uses this one a lot.
* It can be hard to maintain at times.
* Ex: A book of verse underneath the bough
* A book / of ver / se un / derneath / the bough
* U   \_        U  \_    U   \_    U     \_        U     \_

**Trochee (Trochaic)**

* Strong syllable followed by a weak syllable.
* Ex: Fairer than the Mermaid Tavern
* Fairer / than the / Mermaid / Tavern
* \_    U   \_      U      \_      U       \_   U

**Anapest (Anapestic)**

* Two weak syllables followed by a strong syllable.
* Ex: On this night of all nights of the year.
* On this night / of all nights / of the year
* U    U     \_       U   U     \_       U  U     \_

**Dactyl (Dactylic)**

* A strong syllable followed by two weak syllables
* Ex: How shall I know whether they will come back to me
* How shall I / know whether / they will come / back to me
* \_        U  U     \_       U    U        \_      U   U          \_     U  U

**Spondee (Spondaic)**

* Two strong syllables
* This is not common as a line, but appears as a foot.
* A spondee usually appears at the end of a line.
* Ex: And no birds sing.
* And no / birds sing.
* U    \_     \_         \_

**Number of Feet**

* The second part of meter is the number of feet contained in a line.
* One foot = monometer
* Two feet = dimeter
* Three feet = trimester
* Four feet = tetrameter
* Five feet = pentameter
* Six feet = hexameter

**Therefore…**

* Poems with an identifiable meter are therefore identified by the type of feet (e.g. iambic) and the number of feet in a line (e.g. pentameter).
* The following line is in iambic pentameter because it has five feet (pentameter), and each foot has two syllables with the stress on the second syllable (iambic).
* That **time** | of **year** | thou **mayst** | in **me** | be**hold**
* You will hear meter identified as iambic pentameter, trochaic tetrameter, etc.

**Sonnets**

**What is a sonnet?**

* A poem of expressive thought or idea
* It has fourteen (14) lines exactly.
* Each line is ten (10) syllables long.
* It features end rhyme in a particular pattern depending on the type of sonnet.
* Sonnets are often about unrequited love or love in general.
* There are two major types of sonnets (and many sub-types).

**Italian or Petrarchan Sonnet**

* Has an octave (set of 8 lines) and a sestet (six lines).
* The octave asks a question and opens the poem; the sestet is the answer.
* The rhyme scheme is: abbaabba cdecde

**Qual Donna Attende A Gloriosa Fama** by Francesco Petrarch

Doth any maiden seek the glorious fame

Of chastity, of strength, of courtesy?

Gaze in the eyes of that sweet enemy

Whom all the world doth as my lady name!

How honour grows, and pure devotion’s flame,

How truth is joined with graceful dignity,

There thou may’st learn, and what the path may be

To that high heaven which doth her spirit claim;

There learn soft speech, beyond all poet’s skill,

And softer silence, and those holy ways

Unutterable, untold by human heart.

But the infinite beauty that all eyes doth fill,

This none can copy! Since its lovely rays

Are given by God’s pure grace, and not by art.

**English or Shakespearean Sonnet**

* This type of sonnet is much more common.
* It has three quatrains (sets of four lines) followed by a rhyming couplet.
* The rhyme scheme is: abab cdcd efef gg

**Sonnet 130** by William Shakespeare

My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun,

Coral is far more red, than her lips red,

If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun:

If hair be wires, black wires grow on her head:

I have seen roses damasked, red and white,

But no such roses see I in her cheeks,

And in some perfumes is there more delight,

Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.

I love to hear her speak, yet well I know,

That music hath a far more pleasing sound:

I grant I never saw a goddess go,

My mistress when she walks treads on the ground.

And yet by heaven I think my love as rare,

As any she belied with false compare.

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**How Do I Love Thee**

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways. \_\_\_\_\_\_

I love thee to the depth and breadth and height \_\_\_\_\_\_

My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight. \_\_\_\_\_\_

For the ends of being and ideal grace. \_\_\_\_\_\_

I love thee to the level of every day’s \_\_\_\_\_\_

Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light. \_\_\_\_\_\_

I love thee freely, as men strive for right. \_\_\_\_\_\_

I love thee purely, as they turn from praise. \_\_\_\_\_\_

I love thee with the passion put to use \_\_\_\_\_\_

In my old griefs, and with my childhood’s faith. \_\_\_\_\_\_

I love thee with a love I seemed to lose \_\_\_\_\_\_

With my lost saints.  I love thee with the breath \_\_\_\_\_\_

Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose, \_\_\_\_\_\_

I shall but love thee better after death. \_\_\_\_\_\_

**Who is the speaker?**

**Who is the speaker addressing?**

**Label the rhyme scheme of the poem on the lines provided above.**

**Label and identify the meter of one line of the poem.**

**Quote and label one figure of speech.**

**Identify the tone. (What emotions does the poem evoke?) Write down an emotion word, and record a quote to support it.**

**Identify the type of sonnet. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Sonnet Worksheet**

Here are the rules:

* Must be 14 lines.
* Must have 10 syllables in each line.
* Must follow the rhyme scheme below.
* Must show some thought and effort.

First Stanza:

A

B

A

B

Second Stanza:

C

D

C

D

Third Stanza:

E

F

E

F

Rhyming Couplet:

G

G