

Lyric and Lyrics  
**Scansion Practice**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Mark the stressed and unstressed syllables in the excerpts and poems below and answer questions about each. (/ and ~, respectively)

**Accentual-Syllabic Rhythm**

**Example 1**

Twinkle, twinkle little star.  
How I wonder what you are!

What kind of feet are these? (What is the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables?)

\_\_\_\_\_

How many feet are in a line? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe the meter? (e.g., iambic pentameter, anapestic tetrameter, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Example 2**

Yankee Doodle went to town  
Riding on a pony  
Stuck a feather in his cap  
And called it macaroni.

What kind of feet are these? \_\_\_\_\_

How many feet are in a line? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe the meter?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Example 3, from Clement Clarke Moore's "A Visit from St. Nicholas"**

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.  
 The stockings were hung by the chimney with care  
 In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.

What kind of feet are these? \_\_\_\_\_ How many feet are in a line? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe the meter? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Example 4

To market, to market to buy a fat pig.  
 Home again, home again, jiggety jig.  
 To market, to market to buy a fat hog.  
 Home again, home again, jiggety jog.

What kind of feet are these? \_\_\_\_\_ How many feet are in a line? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe the meter? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Example 5, from Alfred Lord Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade"

Cannon to right of them,  
 Cannon to left of them,  
 Cannon in front of them  
 Volleyed and thundered;

What kind of feet are these? \_\_\_\_\_ How many feet are in a line? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe the meter? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Example 6, from Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven"

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,  
 Over many a quaint and curious volume of forgotten lore—  
 While I nodded, nearly napping, suddenly there came a tapping,

As of some one gently rapping, rapping at my chamber door.  
 “Tis some visitor,” I muttered, “tapping at my chamber door—  
 Only this and nothing more.”

What kind of feet are these? \_\_\_\_\_ How many feet are in a line? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe the meter? \_\_\_\_\_

**Example 7, from Alexander Pope’s *The Rape of the Lock*, Canto 1**

This casket India's glowing gems unlocks,  
 And all Arabia breathes from yonder box.  
 The tortoise here and elephant unite,  
 Transform'd to combs, the speckled and the white.  
 Here files of pins extend their shining rows,  
 Puffs, powders, patches, bibles, billet-doux.  
 Now awful beauty puts on all its arms;  
 The fair each moment rises in her charms,  
 Repairs her smiles, awakens ev'ry grace,  
 And calls forth all the wonders of her face;

What kind of feet are these? \_\_\_\_\_ How many feet are in a line? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe the meter? \_\_\_\_\_

What else do you notice about the end rhymes? Can you find what these are called?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Example 8, from “If you were coming in the fall” by Emily Dickinson**

If you were coming in the fall,  
 I'd brush the summer by  
 With half a smile and half a spurn,  
 As housewives do a fly.

If I could see you in a year,  
 I'd wind the months in balls,  
 And put them each in separate drawers,  
 Until their time befalls.

What kind of feet are these? \_\_\_\_\_

How many feet are in the lines? \_\_\_\_\_

How would you describe the meter? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Other kinds of rhythm**

#### **Example 9, "We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks**

The Pool Players.  
 Seven at the Golden Shovel.

We real cool. We  
 Left school. We

Lurk late. We  
 Strike straight. We

Sing sin. We  
 Thin gin. We

Jazz June. We  
 Die soon.

How do the stressed syllables work here? How does the poem have rhythm? What is the effect?

#### **Example 10, opening of "Alexander Hamilton" from *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda**

How does a bastard, orphan, son of a whore and a	1
Scotsman, dropped in the middle of a forgotten	2
Spot in the Caribbean by providence impoverished, in squalor	3
Grow up to be a hero and a scholar?	4
The ten-dollar Founding Father without a father	5

Got a lot farther by working a lot harder	6
By being a lot smarter	7
By being a self-starter	8
By fourteen, they placed him in charge of a trading charter.	9

\*\* You will probably find it easier to mark the stressed and unstressed syllables in this passage if you listen to the recording. It's linked in the blog post that hosts this assignment.

Find the following in this excerpt and write the specific words where these occur. (Line numbers have been provided to help you explain your answers.)

Example of half or slant rhyme. \_\_\_\_\_

Three examples of feminine rhyme. \_\_\_\_\_

Three examples of alliteration. \_\_\_\_\_

Three examples of assonance. \_\_\_\_\_

Four examples of internal rhyme. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_