***ENG 1D POETRY: RHYTHM & RHYME***

*Wilson*

**RHYTHYM** is the basic beat structure in poetry. Many types of poems have a pattern of beats. It works like this:

Every word can be divided into syllables: SYLLABLE

SYL LAB LE

You can use a “clap your hands” method to work out syllables.

When each syllable is spoken it is either spoken **STRESSED** or **UNSTRESSED**. Symbols can be placed above each syllable to show the stress or unstress. A u (unstressed) and a / (stressed) can show the pattern visually. This is called **SCANSION**. A group of stressed and unstressed syllables is called a **FOOT**.

When a **foot** is repeated a certain number of times we get the different types of metre:

1. **IAMBIC PENTAMETRE:** Five IAMBIC (unstress/stress) feet per line

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| So | long | as | men | can | breathe, | or | eyes | can | see, |
| So | long | lives | this, | and | this | gives | life | to | thee. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. **IAMBIC TETRAMETRE:** Four IAMBIC (unstress/stress) feet per line

Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound (TETRAMETRE)

That saved a wretch like me; (TRIMETRE)

I once was lost, but now am found; (TETRAMETRE)

Was blind, but now I see. (TRIMETRE)

1. **CAESURA:** An intentional break in the rhythm of a poem. It is caused by the end syllable of a word not following the regular pattern
2. **INVERSION:** Taking a foot of poetry and making it the opposite (i.e. an IAMBIC to TROCHEE)
3. **TROCHEE:** A foot with two syllables, the first stressed and the second unstressed

Example: HERO, CANDLE

1. **SPONDEE:** A foot with two stressed syllables

**RHYME SCHEME** is the pattern of rhymes in a poem. Some poems have a specific pattern of rhyming. For example, ballads are often written in four-line stanzas with an AABB or ABAB scheme.

What does that mean?

For a poem with an ABAB rhyme scheme:

1. Find the sound at the end of the first line. Call that sound “A”
2. Find the sound at the end of the second line. Call that sound “B”
3. For line three, the end sound must rhyme with “A”
4. For line four, the end sound must rhyme with “B”

Depending on the rules of the poem, you may continue or change the pattern.

Does anyone know the name of this type of poem?

***AABBA***