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FOOT AND METER IN POETRY

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2 INTRODUCTION

- meter – comes from the Greek term for measure
- poetry written in a regular pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables
- the recognition and naming of broad wave patterns in lines of verse (like waves on the shore or the wave patterns of sounds in physics)

3 METER CONTINUED

- there are a succession of lines or sentences that have the same metrical pattern, but is not necessarily exactly rhythmically identical
- lines are repeated again and again in the same broad rhythmical patterns, creating a rhythmical unit
- eg: “To this I witness call the fools of Time
Which die for goodness, who have lived for crime.”

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POETRY HAS FEET

- the technical meaning – has one stressed syllable and one or more unstressed syllables or has one unstressed syllable and one or more stressed syllables
- is a measurable, patterned, conventional unit of poetic rhythm
- the non-technical meaning – connected to how we walk
- pattern and rhythm of steps equal to pattern and rhythm of poems
- rhythm of music connected to movement of body and rhythmical pattern of movement



5 SCANSION

- the system of using symbols to represent stressed and unstressed patterns in a poem in order to be able to “read” the poem
- gives the broad wave pattern, but doesn't define the individual wave or pattern

6 KINDS OF PATTERNS

iamb(ic) – unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable

- * ' * '
- The way a crow
- * ' * '
- Shook down on me.

7 TROCHEE (TROCHAIC)

- stressed followed by unstressed
- ‘ * ‘ * ‘ * ‘ *
- Once upon a midnight dreary

8 ANAPEST (ANAPESTIC)

- has two unstressed syllables followed by a stressed one
- * * ‘ * * ‘ * * The Assy/ ian came
down/ like a
- ‘ * * ‘
- wolf/ on the fold,

9 DACTYL

- one stressed followed by two unstressed
- ‘ * * ‘ * * ‘ **
- Hickory, dickory, dock

10 SPONDEE (SPONDAIC)

- is a foot composed of stressed syllables
- ‘ ‘ ‘ ‘ ‘ ‘
- We, real, cool. We left school.

|| PYRRHIC

- three unstressed followed by a stressed
- * * * ' * * * '
- At their/return,/up the/high strand,/

12 QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS THE PATTERN OF IAMBIC FOOT ?
2. ANAPEST FOOT FOLLOWS WHAT PATTERN ?
3. DUM-da is what kind of feet ?
4. da-da-DUM is example of ?

13 REFERENCE

- A GLOSSARY OF LITERARY TERMS BY G. G. HARPAM AND M.H.ABRAMS
- <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learn/glossary-terms/foot>