

Literary Analysis

RHYTHMIC PATTERNS

One element that makes poetry musical is **meter**, the rhythmic pattern that is repeated regularly throughout the poem. Each unit of meter, known as a **foot**, consists of one stressed syllable (·) and one or more unstressed syllables (-). Meter is expressed in terms of the type of foot and the number of feet in a line.

- **iamb** (·-); example: *allow*
- **trochee** (-·); example: *mountain*
- **anapest** (~~·); example: *seventeen*
- **dactyl** (-~~); example: *history*

The number of feet in a line may be one (monometer), two (dimeter), three (trimeter), four (tetrameter), five (pentameter), six (hexameter), and so on. Meter is described using the adjectival form of the type and the number of feet in a line; examples include *iambic pentameter*, *trochaic tetrameter*, *dactylic trimeter*, and so on.

Directions: For each poem, record the type of foot, number of feet, and the name of its meter. Circle the name of the poem in which the meter is most regular.

Poem	Type of Foot	Number of Feet	Name of Meter
"Ozymandias"			
"Ode to the West Wind"			
"To a Skylark"			