Poetry

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The basics you ought to know
Poetic Feet

- **IAMB** / u /
  - Two syllables: unstressed, stressed
  - a-BOVE

- **Trochee** / u
  - Two syllables: stressed, unstressed
  - CARE-less

- **Spondee** / /
  - Two syllables: unstressed, unstressed
  - well-loved
Poetic Feet

- Anapest
  - Three syllables: unstressed, unstressed, stressed
    - in-ter-VENE

- Dactyl
  - Three syllables: stressed, unstressed, unstressed
    - TEN-der-ly
Poetic Meter
Determined by the number of feet per line

- 1 foot = monometer
- 2 feet = dimeter
- 3 feet = trimeter
- 4 feet = tetrameter
- 5 feet = pentameter
- 6 feet = hexameter
- 7 feet = heptameter
- 8 feet = octameter
Stanza Types

- 3 lines = tercet
- 4 lines = quatrain
- 6 lines = sestet
- 7 lines = septet
- 8 lines = octave
A pair of successive lines of verse, especially when rhyming together and of the same length.

This to disclose is all thy guardian can:
Beware of all, but most beware of Man!

This example from Alexander Pope’s “The Rape of the Lock” is an example of a *heroic couplet* (a couplet of iambic pentameter)
Sonnet

- 14 lines
- Iambic Pentameter
- Shakespearean (English) rhyme scheme: 
  - ABAB CDCD EFEF GG
- Petrarchan (Italian) rhyme scheme:  
  - ABBA ABBA CDE CDE (with some variation)
Other Common Terms

 Enjambment:
    The continuation of a sentence beyond the second line of a couplet. Now also applied less restrictedly to the carrying over of a sentence from one line to the next.

 Caesura:
    A pause or breathing-place about the middle of a metrical line, generally indicated by a pause in the sense.