

Teacher Name	
Class	
Date	

Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
 Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
 All mimsy were the borogoves,
 And the mome raths outgrabe.

"Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
 The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
 Beware the Jubjub bird, and shun
 The frumious Bandersnatch!"

He took his vorpal sword in hand;
 Long time the manxome foe he sought—
 So rested he by the Tumtum tree
 And stood awhile in thought.

And, as in uffish thought he stood,
 The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
 Came whiffing through the tulgey wood,
 And burbled as it came!

One, two! One, two! And through and through
 The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
 He left it dead, and with its head
 He went galumphing back.

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
 Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
 O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
 He chortled in his joy.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
 Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:
 All mimsy were the borogoves,
 And the mome raths outgrabe.

Directions This is a famous poem, due at least partly to the fact that many of the words are completely made up! However, we are still able to understand (most of) it somehow...read this as though it is a code to break! In the space below, summarize what happens in this narrative piece.

Another reason this poem has stood the test of time is because it has a sing-song cadence, like a nursery rhyme. The poet uses **rhythm** to make the words flow.

❖ Rhythm

The word rhythm is derived from *rhythmos* (Greek) which means, “measured motion”. Rhythm is a literary device which demonstrates the long and short patterns through stressed and unstressed syllables particularly in verse form.

Types of rhythm

English poetry makes use of five important rhythms. These rhythms are of different patterns of stressed (/) and unstressed (x) syllables. Each unit of these types is called foot. Here are the five types of rhythm:

1. Iamb (x /)

This is the most commonly used. It consists of **two** syllables. The first syllable is not stressed while the second syllable is stressed. Such as “compare” in

Example: “Shall I **compare** thee **to** a **summer’s** **day**?”

2. Trochee (/ x)

A trochee is type of poetic foot which is usually used in English poetry. It has **two** syllables. The first syllable is strongly stressed while the second syllable is unstressed, as given below.

Example: “**Tell** me **not**, in **mournful** **numbers**”

3. Spondee (/ /)

Spondee is a poetic foot which has **two** syllables that are consecutively stressed.

Example: “**White** **founts** falling in the Courts of the sun”

4. Dactyl (/ x x)

Dactyl is made up of **three** syllables. The first syllable is stressed and the remaining two syllables are not stressed such as the word “**mar**velous”.

Example: “This is the forest **prime**val. The **mur**muring pines and the hemlocks,”

The words “primeval” and “murmuring” show dactyls in this line.

5. Anapest (x x /)

Anapests are totally opposites of the dactyls. They have **three** syllables; the first two syllables are not stressed while the last syllable is stressed.

Example: “Twas the **night** before **Christ**mas, and **all** through the **house**,”

Here is the cheat sheet!

Foot	ADJECTIVE	STRESS PATTERN
Iamb	Iambic	da-DUM (˘ /)
Trochee	Trochaic	DUM-da (/ ˘)
Spondee	Spondaic	DUM-DUM (//)
Dactyl	Dactylic	DUM-da-da (/ ˘ ˘)
Anapest	Anapestic	da-da-DUM (˘ ˘ /)

Let's try this out...

Question: How many syllables are in the name Perkins?

Answer:

2

Per	kins
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Question: If someone were to yell "Perkins" in a crowded room, which syllable would be louder?

Answer:

"PER-kins!"

PER	kins
/ (stressed)	˘ (unstressed)

Question: What type of rhythm is the name Perkins?

Answer:

It is two syllables, and the first syllable is stressed while the second is unstressed. This is an example of a trochee.

NOW YOU TRY! Break down the following words (making the boxes) in the space to the right:

Applaud

Shakespeare

Choose one: Romeo / Juliet

Let's see how it plays out with "Jabberwocky":

"And hast thou slain the Jabberwock?
 Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
 O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!"
 He chortled in his joy.

Write the lines in the boxes below, only allowing **1 syllable per box**. I'll get you started.

And	hast	thou	slain	the	Jab-	ber-	wock?

Now, **CIRCLE** all the **stressed** syllables. A pattern should begin to emerge...Write the name of the pattern below.

How many syllables are in the first line of the stanza?	
The second?	
The third?	
The fourth?	

Look back at the rest of the poem and determine if the other stanzas have the same pattern or have something different.

Counting stressed and unstressed syllables: RHYTHM
 Counting total syllables per line: METER

2 or 3 syllables = 1 foot of poetry

2 syllables = MONOmeter	4 syllables= Dimeter	6 syllables =TRImeter	8 syllables= TETRAmeter	10 syllables= PENTAmeter
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CIRCLE the correct answers:

The first line of “Jabberwocky” is (iambic/trochaic/spondaic/dactylic/anapestic)
(mono/di/tri/tetra/penta) meter.