

## Scansion Assignments

Completed by Hollis Wong-Wear

### - Part One

Scan the following verses, marking: ictus, mora, virgule. Label each with its metrical form (e.g., "trochaic tetrameter")

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

Whene'er he heard a tale of woe

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

From client A or client B,

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

His grief would overcome him so,

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

He'd scarce have strength to take his fee.

#### 1. Iambic Tetrameter

( / u u | / u u | / u u )

Tokyo weather is mercifully

( / u u | / u u | / u u )

Windy and blows away pessimists.

#### 2. Dactylic Trimeter

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

What though I'm in a sorry case?

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

What though I cannot meet my bills?

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

What though I suffer toothache's ills?

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

What though I swallow countless pills?

#### 3. Iambic Tetrameter (or, is this a spondee??)

(u u / | u u / | u u / | u u / )

When the moon hits your eye like a big pizza pie

(u u / | u u / | u u / | u u / )

You are feeling Italian and amorous, si?

#### 4. Irregular Anapestic tetrameter

( / u | / u )

Here's a story,

( / u | / u | / u )

told by twenty women,

( / u | / u | / u | / u )

All of whom have had a visitation.

### 5. Trochaic (not sure about meter here, they're all different?!)

( u / | u / | u / | u / )

The other night, from cares exempt,

( u / | u / | u / | u / )

I slept. And what d'you think I dreamt?

( u / | u / | u / | u / )

I dreamt that somehow I had come

( u / | u / | u / | u / )

To dwell in Topsy-Turveydom!

### 6. Iambic Tetrameter

( u / | u / | u / | u / | u / )

You ask if sugar's good for little boys

( u / | u / | u / | u / | u / )

And yet you buy them danger-laden toys.

### 7. Iambic Pentameter

( / / | / / | / / | / / | / / )

Bark. Bark. Woof. Woof. Rats. Cats. Bats. Food!

### 8. Spondaic Tetrameter

( u / | u / | u / | u / )

You'll see my name in lights again

( u / | u / | u / | u / )

I'll go from dark to brights again

( u / | u / | u / | u / )

My spirits high as kites again

( u / | u / | u / | u / )

I'll never suffer slights again

( u / | u / | u / | u / )

I'll taste those sweet delights again

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

No plethora of plights again

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

No blossoming of blights again

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

No frantic fits or frights again

### 9. Iambic tetrameter

( / u u | / u u | / u u | / u u )

“When do we eat?” said the master ventriloquist,

( / u u | / u u | / u u | / u u )

Drinking a glassful of water and gargling.

### 10. Dactylic tetrameter

## Scansion Assignment - Part Two

*Scansion Assignment 2.1 - Write and scan eight lines of perfect iambic tetrameter using only masculine rhymes. Mark ictus, mora and virgule.*

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

The cup had scarcely left my hand

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

Before I heard the strong demand

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

To stand at once and leave my place

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

In tailored suit and painted face

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

I hear the call, I spring to act

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

My countenance will never lack

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

My ready spirit comes to life

(u / | u / | u / | u / )

(They know not where I hide the knife)

*Scansion Assignment 2.2 - Write and scan eight lines of perfect trochaic trimeter using only feminine rhymes. Mark ictus, mora and virgule.*

(/ u | / u | / u)  
 Feminine and feisty  
 (/ u | / u | / u)  
 Fellas thought her shiesty  
 (/ u | / u | / u)  
 Couldn't ever notice  
 (/ u | / u | / u)  
 Blooming like a lotus  
 (/ u | / u | / u)  
 Fickle men are hollow  
 (/ u | / u | / u)  
 Grasping for a follow  
 (/ u | / u | / u)  
 Simple silent suitors  
 (/ u | / u | / u)  
 Living on computers

Scansion Assignment 2.3 - Write and scan eight lines of perfect dactylic trimeter using triple rhymes in even numbered lines. Mark ictus, mora and virgule.

(/ u u | / u u | / u u)  
 Others will try to be dutiful  
 (/ u u | / u u | / u u)  
 Many will strive to be beautiful  
 (/ u u | / u u | / u u)  
 Thankfully many will complicate  
 (/ u u | / u u | / u u)  
 Melodies fashioned to venerate  
 (/ u u | / u u | / u u)  
 Canopies string their lights overhead  
 (/ u u | / u u | / u u)  
 Welcoming all to its featherbed  
 (/ u u | / u u | / u u)  
 Whether from Paris or Paraguay  
 (/ u u | / u u | / u u)  
 Everyone pines over yesterday

Scansion Assignment 2.4 - Write a quatrain, each line of which scans in exactly the following way:

uu/ | uu/ | uu/ | uu/

Overwhelmed, never seen, overcome, underpaid  
Undertow make-believe we can show my best face  
Can you find how the best type of girls are betrayed  
By the sun, by the light, can you hold it in place