

Scansion Subtleties Assignment - Part One

Scan the following verses, marking: ictus, mora, virgule.

Label each with its predominant metrical form (e.g., "trochaic tetrameter" or "trochaic tetrameter, alternating with trochaic trimeter")

Gather round me, everybody
Gather round me while I preach some.
Feel a sermon comin' on me.

TROCHAIC
meter: TETRAMETER

In all the towns, and cities, fair
On Merry England's broad expanse,
No swordsman ever could compare
With Thomas Winterbottom Hance.

IAMBIC
meter: TETRAMETER

Let's meet on the road to Morocco,
Instead of the tunnel of love.

DACTYLIC
meter: TRIMETER

WITH PICKUP AND
SHORTENED LINE

There's a bright, golden haze on the meadow
There's a bright, golden haze on the meadow.
The corn is as high as an elephant's eye
And it looks like it's climbing clear up to the sky.

meter: ANAPESTIC TRIMETER
w/ PICKUP
ALTERNATING w/
DACTYLIC TRIMETER

What do you do with a B.A. in English?
What is my life going to be?
Four years of college and plenty of knowledge
Have earned me this useless degree.
I can't pay the bills yet, 'cause I have no skills yet.
The world is a big scary place...

meter: DACTYLIC TETRAMETER
w/ SHORTENED FEET
AND PICKUPS

Columbus and his men, they say,
Conveyed the virus hither,
Whereby my features rot away
And vital powers wither;
Yet had they not traversed the seas
And come infected back,
Why, think of all the luxuries
That modern life would lack!

meter: IAMBIC TETRAMETER AUT
w/ IAMBIC TRIMETER
w/ SHORTENED FEET

All around the cobbler's bench
 The monkey chased the weasel
 The monkey thought 'twas all in fun
 Pop -- goes the weasel!
 Johnny's got the whooping cough and
 Mary's got the measles
 That's the way the money goes
 Pop -- goes the weasel!

TROCHAIC
 TETRAMETER
 meter: W/ SHORTENED FEET
 AND WRAPPED FEET
 AND PICKUPS
 (ALT W/ TROCHAIC TRIMETER?)

Oh, what a beautiful mornin'
 Oh, what a beautiful day.
 I've got a beautiful feelin'
 Everything's goin' my way.

DACTYLIC
 TRIMETER
 meter: W/ SHORTENED FEET

Don't be afraid of the future,
 All of our plans will come true.
 How can they fail with love on our side?
 They'll never fail, we won't be denied.

DACTYLIC
 TRIMETER ALT
 meter: W/ DACTYLIC
 TETRAMETER
 W/ SHORTENED FEET

Scansion Subtleties Assignment - Part Two

Scansion Assignment 2.1 - Write and scan eight lines of iambic tetrameter which are perfect except for even numbered lines in which you are to use iambic trimeter. Use only masculine rhymes. Mark ictus, mora and virgule.

1	u / u / u / u / My parents like to yell at me
2	u / u / u / To not be on my phone
3	u / u / u / u / “It’s rude and disrespectful too...”
4	u / u / u / They like to bitch and moan
5	u / u / u / u / But when I’m next at science fair
6	u / u / u / Or not yet up at bat
7	u / u / u / u / I’ll give you one good solid guess
8	u / u / u / Of what they’re looking at

Scansion Assignment 2.2 - Write and scan eight lines of perfect trochaic tetrameter which are perfect except for even numbered lines in which you are to use trochaic trimeter. Use only feminine rhymes. Mark ictus, mora and virgule.

1	/u /u /u /u Opting for the full-time van life
2	/u /u /u Can be kind of tricky
3	/u /u /u /u When your toilet’s in the kitchen
4	/u /u /u You just can’t be picky
5	/u /u /u /u Though it’s nice to reach your ice cream
6	/u /u /u From your comfy fold-out
7	/u /u /u /u You must take an outdoor shower
8	/u /u /u Even when it’s cold out

Scansion Assignment 2.3 - Write a quatrain which scans in the following way:

u u / u u / u u / u / When my cat wants to walk on my face at night
u / u u / u / I don't say a word at all
u u / u u / u u / u / For he's king of the house and he knows what's right
u / u u / u / And now I must fetch his ball

Scansion Assignment 2.4 - Write a quatrain which scans in the following way:

/u u /u u /u u /u Bad-tempered children who step on the table
u /u u /u u / Will go straight to bed without cake
/u u /u u /u u /u Leaving their portions for paleo parents
u /u u /u u / Who eagerly now will partake