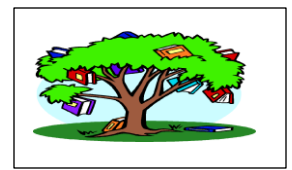


# Toward Better Literacy: Reference Outlines



## Poetic Conventions

- Theme                      The concepts the poem is dealing with
- Meter/Rhythm              Poetic rhythm → type and number of feet
  - Four most common metrical feet (basic unit) in English are:
    - Iambic: unstressed syllable followed by stressed
    - Trochaic: stressed followed by unstressed
    - Anapestic: two unstressed followed by stressed
    - Dactylic: stressed followed by two unstressed
  - The number of feet follows the type:
    - Monometer: one foot
    - Dimeter: two
    - Trimeter: three
    - Tetrameter: four
    - Pentameter: five
    - Hexameter: six
  - Example of iambic tetrameter:
    - “Whose woods these are I think I know”
  - To identify metrical pattern, mark natural stresses on polysyllabic words (many syllables)
  - The pattern serves the interests of the poet, creating a feeling much as a rhythm to a dance creates a feeling in the dancers
- Rhyme                      Repetition of end sounds
  - A poem, if it rhymes, has a rhyme scheme
    - Example: AABA BCB C CDC DDED
- Alliteration                Repetition of initial sounds
- Consonance                Repetition of consonant patterns
- Assonance                 Repetition of vowel sounds
- Onomatopoeia             A word that sounds like its phenomena
- Metonymy                 Word standing for something closely related
- Enjambment                Continuation of a syntactic unit from one line or couplet of a poem to the next with no pause
- Anaphora                  Deliberate repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of successive verses, paragraphs or lines
- Synecdoche                Part standing for a whole
- Personification            Non-human object endowed with humanity
- Litotes                      Double negative for effect
- Diction                     Choice of words
- Syntax                      Arrangement of words
- Imagery                     Creating internal picture through words
- Allusions                  Classical reference
- Simile/Metaphor         Comparison (simile uses like/as)
- Tone                         Attitude
- Irony                        What is expressed is not what is intended; a different implication than surface meaning