

## English Lyric Poetry Final Exam: Spring 2023 – Dr. David Turk, Dr. Sue Talley

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Welcome to the Final Exam. In this exam, you will have some multiple-choice questions, especially on terminology and poetic forms, as they can be confusing to remember and spell. Each of 10 questions will be worth 5 points.

5 Essay questions will be relatively short but will be worth 10 points each.

### Part 1: Terminology and Poetic Forms (5 points for each correct response, circled)

1) William Shakespeare's works were written in what language? CIRCLE the correct answer. (Yes, Dr. Turk explained this to you, so think back on what he said.)

- a) Old English
- b) Middle English
- c) Modern English

2) Shakespeare's sonnets were primarily written in what poetic form:

- a) Iambic pentameter
- b) Trochaic pentameter
- c) Rhyming couplets

3) Lyric poetry is so-called because:

- a) It is only to be read aloud without accompaniment
- b) It is only written in a style to look artistic
- c) It may be set to music

4) A poetry explication may include:

- a) An analysis of poetic form
- b) A personal response to content and effectiveness
- c) Both a.) and b.)

5) Please look at the following. Using this chart, you will identify the types of feet (example: iambic) and meter (example: pentameter) in the following poetic examples.

*If you have trouble identifying the rhythm of a poem, draw lines under the syllables you would normally emphasize in a sentence, like this: "The griz-zly bear is rough and wild".*

*Draw lines between the feet, and then count the number of feet so you can tell the meter.*

Here is an example: “The griz-/ ly bear/ is rough/ and wild.” Of course, I had to place slashes between the feet. The examples below are slightly different but in them, a small question mark in a box (heaven knows why) marks the “upbeat” and the slash marks the “downbeat”. (Marking is to help you; your answer is the type of feet and meter the line contains.)

Here are examples of feet and meter, taken from “A Poetry Explication”:

**IAMBIC (the noun is “iamb”):** an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable, a pattern which comes closest to approximating the natural rhythm of speech. Note line 23 from Shelley’s “Stanzas Written in Dejection, Near Naples”:

˘ / ˘ / ˘ / ˘ /

And walked | with in | ward glo | ry crowned (my underlines—Dr. Sue)

**TROCHAIC (the noun is “trochee”):** a stressed followed by an unstressed syllable, as in the first line of Blake’s “Introduction” to Songs of Innocence:

/ ˘ / ˘ / ˘ /

Piping | down the | valleys | wild

**ANAPESTIC (the noun is “anapest”):** two unstressed syllables followed by a stressed syllable, as in the opening to Byron’s “The Destruction of Sennacherib”:

˘ ˘ / ˘ ˘ / ˘ ˘ / ˘ ˘ /

The Assy | rian came down | like the wolf | on the fold

**DACTYLIC (the noun is “dactyl”):** a stressed syllable followed by two unstressed syllables, as in Thomas Hardy’s “The Voice”:

/ ˘ ˘ / ˘ ˘ / ˘ ˘ / ˘ ˘

Woman much | missed, how you | call to me, | call to me**En**

**Meter refers to the number of feet in a line:**

Monometer	one
Dimeter	two
Trimeter	three
Tetrameter	four
Pentameter	five
Hexameter	six

Example 1: 'Tis not| alone|my in|ky cloak|, good mo|ther,"

Iambic Pentameter

Example 2: "How do| you like| to go| up in| a swing|?"

Iambic Pentameter

Example 3: "Tell all| the truth|, but tell| it slant|"

Iambic Tetrameter

Example 4: "The sky| is clou|dy, yel|lowed by| the smoke|"

Anapestic Pentameter

Example 5: "All I| could see| from where| I stood|"

Iambic Tetrameter

PART 3. SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS. Please answer the following in a statement of no less than 25 words, and no more than 50 words:

1) Name one poet from the Harlem Renaissance (you may remember that we set the poetry of one famous poet to jazz music). Briefly explain the importance of the Harlem Renaissance to the history of poetry.

Of all the poets in the Harlem Renaissance, Langston Hughes was the most influential. Hughes was an African American Poet who used his creative writings and literary works to promote equality within all social constructs. His work condemned racism and celebrated the rich historical culture of African Americans.

2) Name one famous woman poet and explain her importance. You may use a particular poem as an example.

Maya Angelou is one of the most prominent female activists and poets of her time. Her words inspired people of all races and walks of life. Maya used her pen to give others confidence and resilience. She was associated with the Civil Rights Movement in which she identified the racial issue within society and explored solutions through her art.

3) Explain the difference between simile and metaphor. Please create a sentence illustrating each poetic device (one sentence illustrating simile, another sentence illustrating metaphor).

Understanding the difference between a simile and a metaphor can be difficult at times especially because they are both used to make comparisons. However, a simile makes the comparison by using the words like or as while a metaphor says that one thing is something else. For example, in a simile, one would say "I am as light as a feather" while in a metaphor one would say "Her eyes were diamonds." The two, simile and metaphor, are used to compare one thing to another with different techniques.

4) Explain the use of alliteration in poetry. Create a sentence using several words illustrating alliteration.

Alliteration is the repetition of the same letter or sounds of connecting words. For example, growing I would hear tongue twister riddles like "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" or "Sally sells sea shells at the sea shore" Both of these riddles are an example of the literary device alliteration because the same letter and sound is seen in the adjacent words.

5) All poetry does not have the types of feet and meters illustrated above. Please briefly name and explain two other types of poetry often used by modern poets.

Over the course of this class, we have discussed several forms of poetry, from Haiku to Sonnets. However, there are modern-day poems like Free Verse poetry and Blank Verse poetry. These two forms of poems have similarities but unlike the free verse poem, which has no meter or rhyme scheme the blank verse has a meter.

EXTRA CREDIT: Explicate the following poem, using the “tools” you named above to explicate and showing any examples you may find of rhyme, alliteration, metaphor, or simile. 25 points; may be 75-100 words in length. Use the back of this paper to write your explication.

*The Eagle* Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1851):

He clasps the crag with crooked hands,  
Close to the sun in lonely lands,  
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls,  
He watches from his mountain walls,  
And like a thunderbolt, he falls.

This two-stanza poem is separated into two sets of three lines that follow a rhyme scheme of AAA BBB. The poem has a metrical pattern Iambic Tetrameter. The first line of the first stanza uses the literary device of alliteration in order to increase the rhythm of the phrase. The poem depicts an image of an Eagle, In the first stanza one can see that the eagle is high enough to survey the ground below him. Tennyson goes further with his imagery and in the second stanza we can see how the eagle dives down below the use of the simile comparing the eagle dive to a thunderbolt is strong.