Meter

When Rhythm Matters! or "What in the *world* is iambic pentameter?!"

Part 1: The Foot Can poems get poet's foot?

Trochee

- Stressed-unstressed
- Examples
 - Peter, Peter pumpkin-eater
 Had a wife and couldn't keep her.
 - Double, double, toil and trouble;
 Fire burn and cauldron bubble
 Shakespeare, Macbeth

lamb

- Unstressed-stressed
- Examples
 - 'Twas **brill**ig, **and** the **sli**thy **toves**Did **gyre** and **gim**ble **in** the **wabe**.
 - To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.
 Tennyson, "Ulysses"
 - Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?
 Shakespeare, "Sonnet 18"

Dactyl

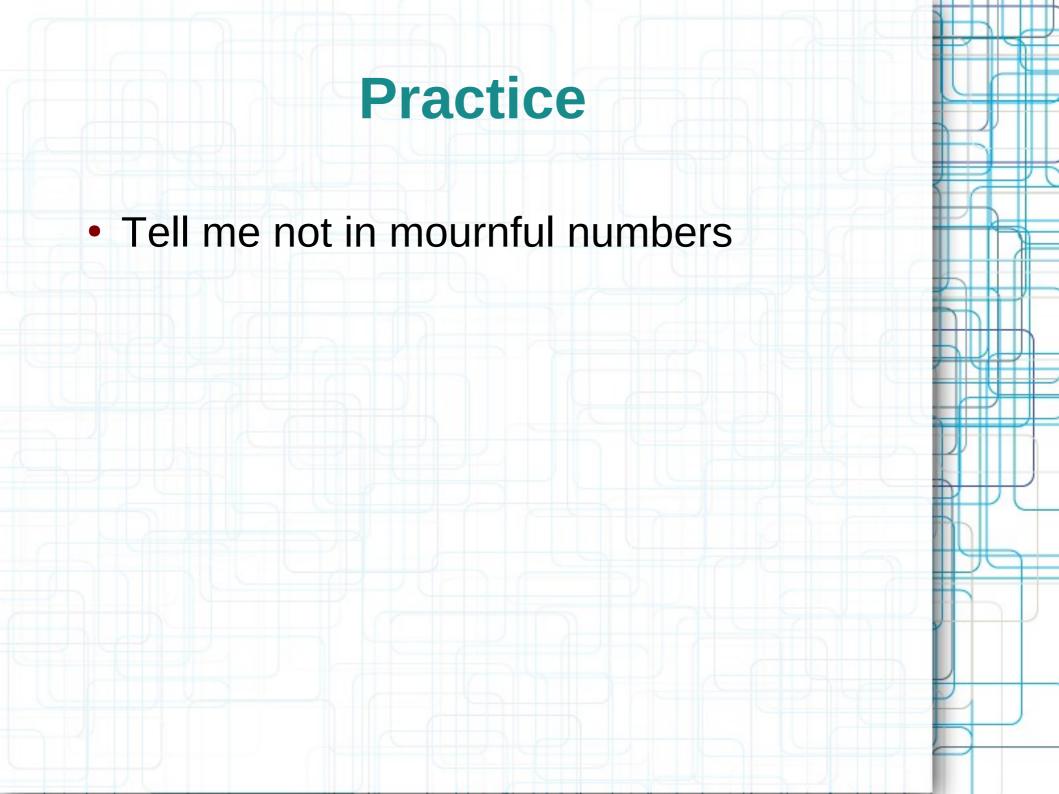
- Stressed-unstressed-unstressed
- Examples
 - This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and the hemlocks Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "Evangeline"
 - Just for a handful of silver he left us
 Just for a riband to stick in his coat
 (Robert Browning, "The Lost Leader")

Anapest

- Unstressed-stressed
- Examples
 - I am out of humanity's reach
 I must finish my journey alone
 (William Cowper's "Verses Supposed to be Written by Alexander Selkirk"
 - Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house
 - The Assyrian came down like a wolf on the fold (Byron, "The Destruction of Sennacherib")

Spondee

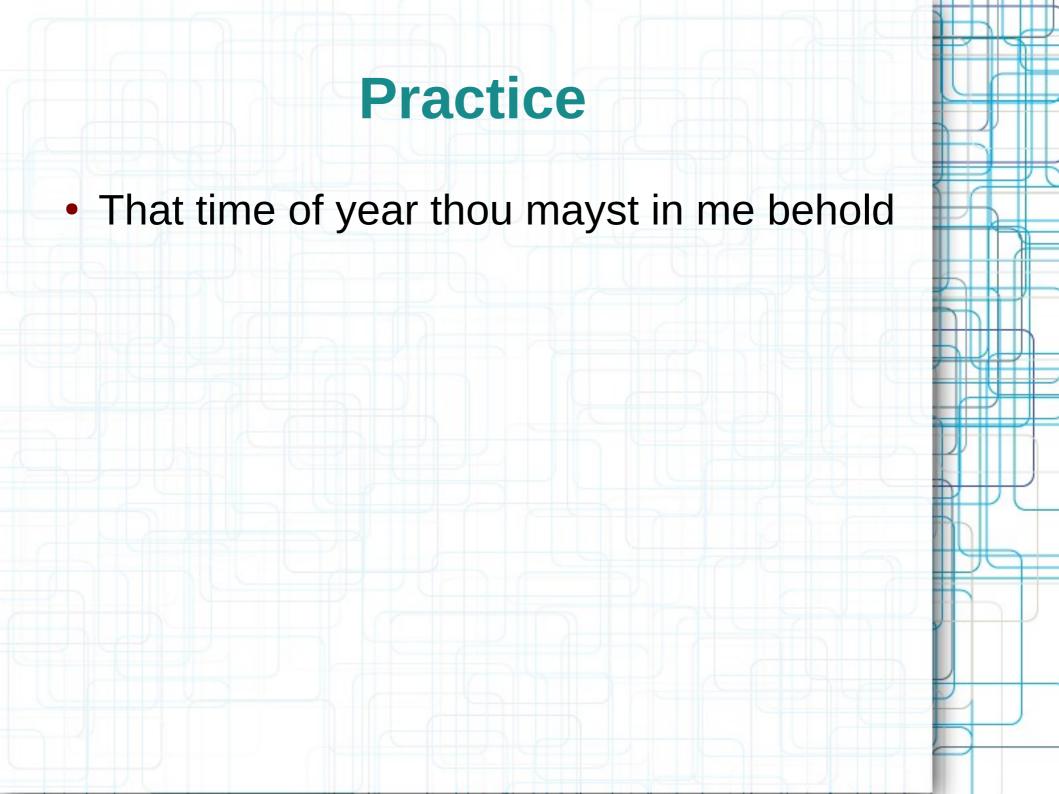
- Stressed-stressed
- Quite rare: appear at the end of lines



Practice Tell me not in mournful numbers Trochees

Practice And the sound of a voice that is still and at peace

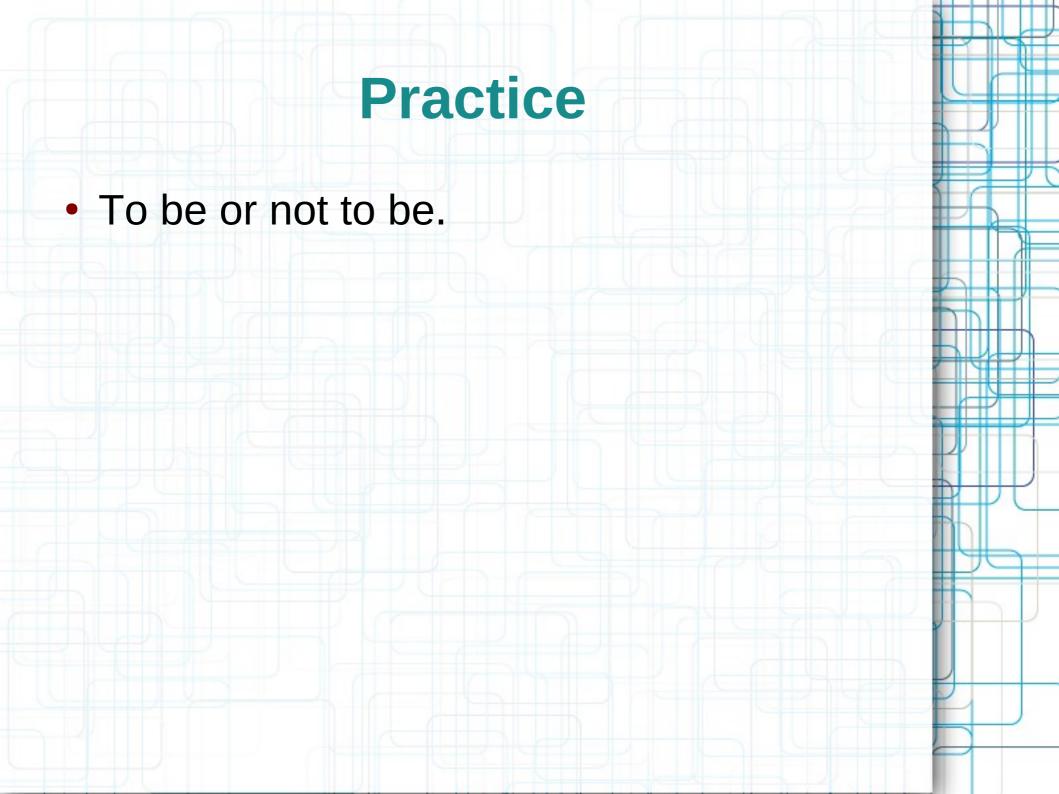
- And the sound of a voice that is still and at peace
- Anapests



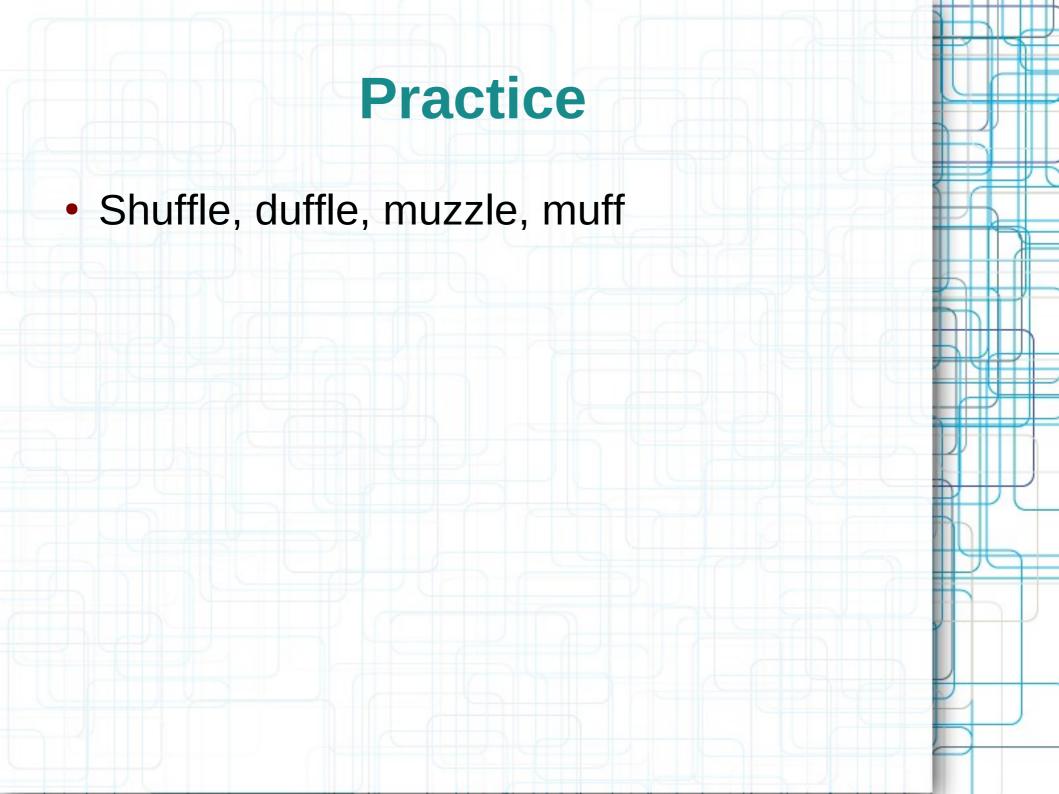
- That time of year thou mayst in me behold
- lambs

And today the Great Yertle, that
 Marvelous he
 Is King of the Mud. That is all he can see.

- And today the Great Yertle, that
 Marvelous he
 Is King of the Mud. That is all he can see.
- Anapests



Practice To be or not to be. lambs



Practice • Shuffle, duffle, muzzle, muff Trochees

Practice Go make the Oobleck tumble down On every street, in every town

- Go make the Oobleck tumble down
 On every street, in every town
- lambs

- Go make the Oobleck tumble down
 On every street, in every town
- lambs

Part 2: The Meter Tetra-what?!

Two Parts of Meter

- lambic pentameter
- Trochaic trimeter
- Anapestic hexameter

Nouns to Adjectives

- Trochee to trochaic
- lamb to iambic
- Dactyl to dactylic
- Anapest to anapestic

Number of Feet

- Second part of name tells number of feet.
- Pentameter means "five"
- Dimeter
- Trimeter
- Tetrameter
- Hexameter

Multiplication in English?!

- Knowing the meter tells us
 - Number of syllables per line
 - Pattern of stressed/unstressted

Number of Syllables

- Number of syllables =
 - Number of syllables in foot
 - Multiplied by
 - Number of times the foot is repeated
- lambic pentameter
 - lambic = 2 syllables
 - Pentameter = 5 feet (in this case, iambs)
 - $-5 \times 2 = 10$

- Anapestic trimeter
- lambic tetrameter
- Dactylic hexameter
- Trochaic dimeter
- Anapestic tetrameter
- Anapestic hexameter

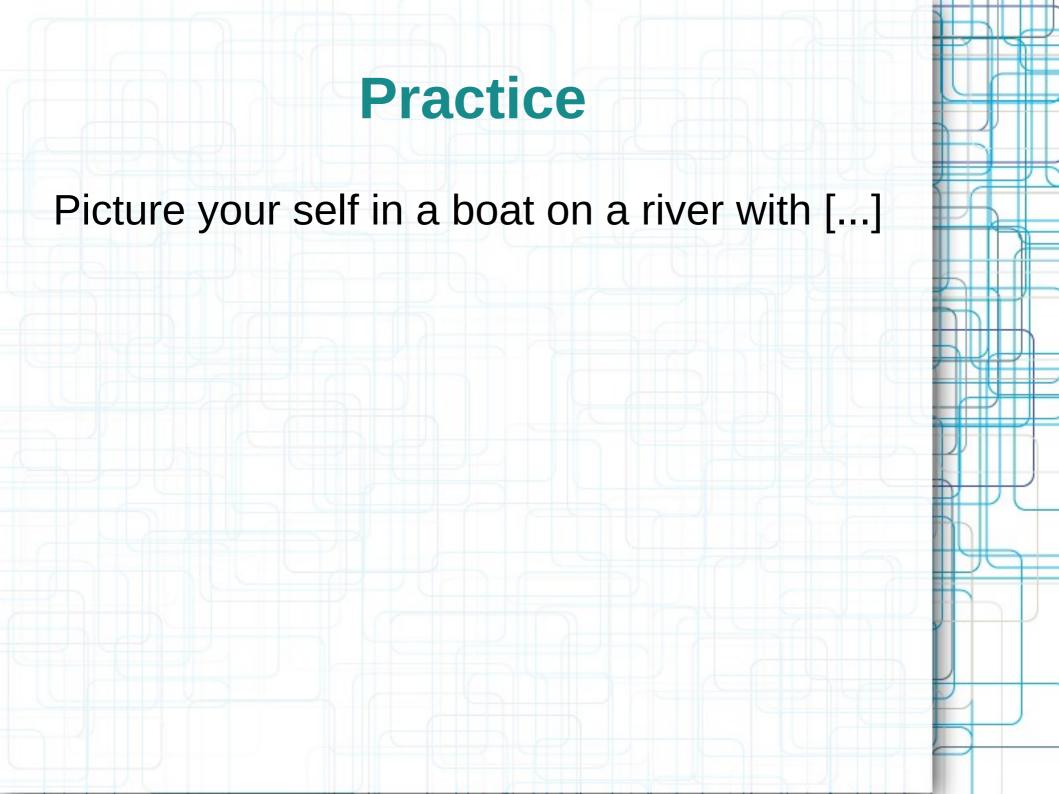
(Note: not all of these possibilities actually exist in poetry. In other words, they're not all used even though they exist in theory.)

Determining Meter

- 1. Figure out what kind of poetic foot is used.
- 2. Count the number of poetic feet per line

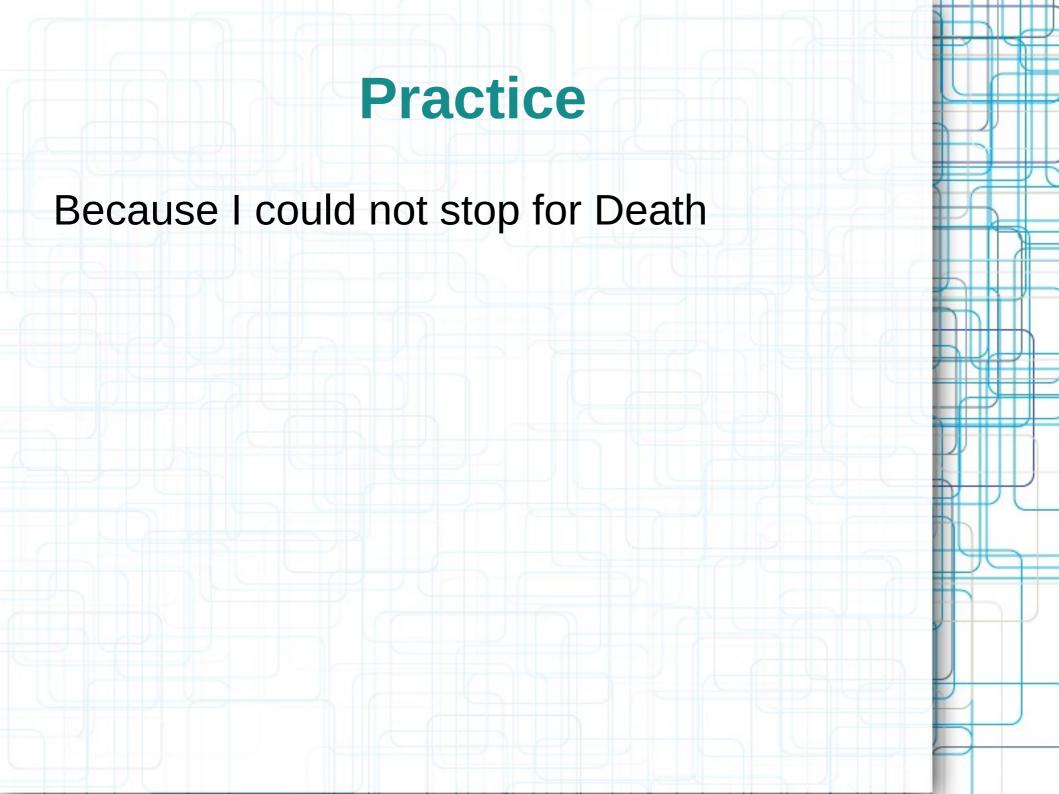
Simple!

And did those feet in ancient time
Walk upon England's mountains green?
And was the holy Lamb of God
On England's pleasant pastures seen?



When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes

I all alone beweep my outcast state,



Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house

This is the forest primeval. The murmuring pines and the hemlocks

