***Poetry Techniques Revision***

**A poem’s meter is made up of feet**

**Foot**

The basic unit of measurement of [accentual-syllabic meter](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/resources/learning/glossary-terms/detail/accentual-syllabic-verse). A foot usually contains one stressed syllable and at least one unstressed syllable. The standard types of feet in English poetry are the [iamb](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/glossary-term.html?term=Iamb), [trochee](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/glossary-term.html?term=Trochee), [dactyl](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/glossary-term.html?term=Dactyl), [anapest](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/glossary-term.html?term=Anapest), and [spondee](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/glossary-term.html?term=Spondee).

**Iamb** A metrical [foot](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/glossary-term.html?term=Foot) consisting of an unaccented syllable followed by an accented syllable. The words “unite” and “provide” are both iambic.

**Trochee** A metrical [foot](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/glossary-term.html?term=Foot)consisting of an accented syllable followed by an unaccented syllable. Examples of trochaic words include “garden” and “highway.”

**Dactyl** A metrical foot consisting of an accented syllable followed by two unaccented syllables; the words “poetry” and “basketball” are both dactylic.

**Anapest** A metrical [foot](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/glossary-term.html?term=Foot) consisting of two unaccented syllables followed by an accented syllable. The words “underfoot” and “overcome” are anapestic.

**Spondee** A metrical [foot](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/glossary-term.html?term=Foot) consisting of two accented syllables. An example of a spondaic word is “hog-wild.”

**Iambic Pentameter** A line made up of five iambs.

**Consonance** A resemblance in sound between two words, or an initial rhyme. Consonance can also refer to shared consonants, whether in sequence (“bed” and “bad”) or reversed (“bud” and “dab”).

**Alliteration**

The repetition of initial stressed, consonant sounds in a series of words within a phrase or verse line. Alliteration need not reuse all initial consonants; “pizza” and “place” alliterate.

**Caesura** A stop or pause in a metrical line, often marked by punctuation or by a grammatical boundary, such as a phrase or clause. A medial caesura splits the line in equal parts, as is common in Old English poetry. Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s[“Mother and Poet”](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/archive/poem.html?id=172984) contains both initial (at the start of the line) (“Dead! One of them shot by sea in the east”) and terminal (at the end of the line) caesurae (“No voice says ‘*My* mother’ again to me. What?”)

**Parallelism** Where ideas or words are repeated in a pattern.

Examples:

Single words that have a slight variation in meaning: “ordain and establish” or “overtake and surpass.”

Sometimes three or more phrases: “Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man, and writing an exact man”

In English other types of parallelism include: antimetabole and anaphora

Prominent figure in Hebrew poetry ie from the Psalms: “but they flattered him with their mouths; they lied to him with their tongues” (repeated idea); “we will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord” (opposite idea).

**Symbols** Something concrete i.e. to do with the senses, including an action, that stands for something abstract i.e. an idea.