Poetic Conventions

- **Theme**: The concept(s) 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
  - Lines can be classified by the number of feet:
    - 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  BBCB  CCDC  DDED
- **Alliteration**: Repetition of initial sounds
- **Consonance**: Repetition of consonant patterns
- **Assonance**: Repetition of vowel sounds
- **Onomatopoeia**: A word that sounds like its phenomenon
- **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 human characteristics
- **Litotes**: Double negative for effect
- **Diction**: Choice of words
- **Syntax**: Arrangement of words
- **Imagery**: Creating internal picture through words
- **Allusions**: Classical reference
- **Simile**: Comparison using “like” or “as”
- **Metaphor**: Comparison making a direct association
- **Tone**: Attitude
- **Irony**: What is expressed is not what is intended; a different implication than surface meaning