

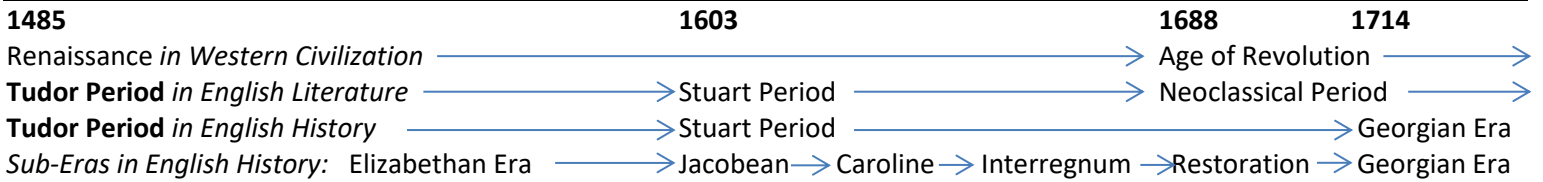
# British Literature Lecture 07



Renaissance – approx. 1500 (Protestant Reformation) to approx. 1700

**Tudor Period** was the first half of the Renaissance in England – 1485 to 1603

- From Battle of Bosworth of 1485 marking the end of the War of the Roses and the beginning of the Tudor Reign
- To the death of Elizabeth in 1603 and the ascension of James Stuart of Scotland to the throne



## Unit 2: The Renaissance – Part 3: Lyric and Metaphysical Poetry

### Lyric Poetry

- Lyric poetry is a genre of poetry that expresses personal and emotional feelings. In the ancient world, lyric poems were those which were sung to the lyre. Lyric poems do not have to rhyme, and today do not need to be set to music or a beat. The most popular form of lyric poetry in the Western tradition is the 14-line sonnet, either in its Petrarchan or its Shakespearean form.

### Metaphysical poetry

- Metaphysical poems are lyric poems. They are brief but intense meditations, characterized by striking use of wit, irony and wordplay. Highly intellectualized poetry written chiefly in 17th-century England.
- Metaphysical poems are marked by philosophical exploration, colloquial diction, ingenious conceits, irony, and metrically flexible lines.
- Topics of interest often included love, religion, and morality, which the metaphysical poets considered through unusual comparisons, frequently employing unexpected similes and metaphors in displays of wit. The inclusion of contemporary scientific advancements were also typical.
- John Donne was the leading Metaphysical poet; others include George Herbert, Henry Vaughan, Andrew Marvell, and Abraham Cowley.

## Poetry Charts in Literature Handbook I made

### Meter in Poetry

Meter is the measurable rhythm (stresses of words) in poetry.

- Every syllable you say has a certain amount of stress, some more than others.

Consider these two sentences:

- They have no RE-cord of your purchase.
- I want to re-CORD a few songs off that CD.

### Feet

In poetry, a metrical unit of two or more syllables is call a foot. These syllables need not be within one word. Since each syllable is either stressed or not, different combinations of stressed and unstressed syllables are given different names.

#### NAME OF FOOT

**Iamb** - Iambic foot – an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable. This is the most common foot.

a-ROUND                      a-WAY                      e-VENT                      per-HAPS

**Trochee (pron. trow-kay)** - Trochaic foot – A stressed syllable followed by an unstressed syllable.

PEN-guin                      BOS-ton                      AP-ple                      O-range                      PER-fect

**Dactyl** - Dactylic foot – A stressed syllable followed by two unstressed syllables.

EL-phant                      HAP-pily                      CHAR-acter                      MAN-ifest                      DEST-iny

**Anapest** - Anapestic foot – Two unstressed syllables followed by a stressed syllable.

inter-VENE                      inter-CEDE

**Spondee (pron. spon-day)** - Spondaic foot – Two stressed syllables.

DAY-BREAK                      PLAY-MATE

**Monosyllable** - One stressed syllable

GO                      SOCKS                      DOG

Most poetry is written with iambs, with the other feet sprinkled throughout to add variety and to emphasize certain words or phrases.

- Notice that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's name consists of two trochees followed by a dactyl. Can you figure out the feet your name consists of?

## Line Length

One Foot - Monometer  
Two Feet - Dimeter

Three Feet - Trimeter  
Four Feet - Tetrameter

Five Feet - Pentameter  
Six Feet - Hexameter

Seven Feet - Heptameter  
Eight Feet - Octameter

To describe the meter, the name of the FOOT and the LINE are given:

- **Iambic Pentameter** - "The land was ours before we were the land's" -Robert Frost
- **Trochaic Tetrameter** - "Double, double, toil, and trouble." -William Shakespeare
- **Anapestic Trimeter** - "And the sound of a voice that is still." - Alfred Lord Tennyson
- **Dactylic Dimeter** - "Touch her not scornfully; Think of her mournfully." -Thomas Hood
- **Trochaic Monometer** - "Adam / Had 'em." - Ogden Nash

## Commonly Used Meters in Poetry

**Common Meter (or ballad meter)**

- 8 / 6 / 8 / 6

**Long Meter**

- 8 / 8 / 8 / 8

**Short Meter**

- 6 / 6 / 8 / 6

**Iambic Pentameter**

- 10 / 10 / 10 / 10

**Heroic Couplet**

- a special iambic pentameter
- where each pair of lines rhymes

**Blank Verse**

- Unrhymed lines in iambic pentameter

**Sonnet** = the following three elements:

- a lyric poem of
- 14 iambic pentameter lines with
- rhyme according to the Italian or English pattern
  - ✓ Italian (Petrarchan) Sonnet = Octave + Sestet
  - ✓ English (Shakespearean) Sonnet = Three Quatrains + Closing Couplet

**Iambic Pentameter (the Rhythm!)** da-DUM / da-DUM / da-DUM / da-DUM / da-DUM !! :-D

**Iamb** refers to the type of "foot"

- Iambic foot is an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable.
- This is the most common foot.
- The da-DUM of a human heartbeat is the most common example of this rhythm.
- The rhythm can be written as:

da	DUM
----	-----

**Examples:**

a-ROUND

a-WAY

e-VENT

per-HAPS

**Pentameter** refers to how many "feet" are in a line

1 Foot – Monometer  
2 Feet - Dimeter

3 Feet - Trimeter  
4 Feet - Tetrameter

**5 Feet - Pentameter**  
6 Feet - Hexameter

7 Feet - Heptameter  
8 Feet - Octameter

## Iambic Pentameter

A line of iambic pentameter is five iambic feet in a row:

da	DUM	da	DUM	da	DUM	da	DUM	da	DUM
----	-----	----	-----	----	-----	----	-----	----	-----

- Five iambs in each line = 10 syllables per line
- The tick-TOCK rhythm of iambic pentameter can be heard in the following **EXAMPLES**:
 

When I do count the clock that tells the time	- The opening line of Shakespeare's Sonnet 12
The land was ours before we were the land's	- Robert Frost
Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?	- <b>Sonnet XVIII</b> - <i>William Shakespeare</i>
If <b>mu-</b> / -sic <b>be</b> / the <b>food</b> / of <b>love</b> , / play <b>on</b>	

Of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste Brought death into the World, and all our woe,	- <b>Paradise Lost</b> - <i>John Milton</i>
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Two households, both alike in dignity, In fair Verona, where we lay our scene	- <b>Romeo and Juliet</b> - <i>William Shakespeare</i>
--	--

- Most of Shakespeare's famous quotations fit into this rhythm.
- The scansion of this can be notated as follows:

˘	/	˘	/	˘	/	˘	/	˘	/
To	swell	the	gourd,	and	plump	the	ha-	zel	shells

The typical **Rhyming Scheme** of the **Italian sonnet** is:

*a b b a - a b b a / c d - c d - c d*  
 Octave Sestet

*a b b a - a b b a / c d e - c d e*  
 Octave Sestet

*a b b a - a b b a / c d e - d c e*  
 Octave Sestet

The typical **Rhyming Scheme** of the **English sonnet** is:

*a b a b / c d c d / e f e f / g g*  
 Three Quatrains Couplet

## Italian or Petrarchan Sonnet

- ✓ Popularized by Italian poet Petrarch
- ✓ Brought to England by Sir Thomas Wyatt

First eight lines: called an OCTAVE

- Rhyme Scheme abba abba

Last six lines: called a SESTET

- Rhyme Scheme cd-cd-cd  
 or cde-cde  
 or cdc-cdc

## English or Shakespearean Sonnet

- ✓ Improvised by Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey

First twelve lines: Three Quatrains

Last two lines: a Closing Couplet

Rhyme Scheme abab cdcd efef gg

## Heroic Couplet

- a special iambic pentameter
- where a pair of lines rhymes!

Iambic pentameter has become the prevalent meter in English.

It was estimated in 1971 that at least three-quarters of all English poetry since Chaucer was in this meter.

## Scansion

The marking of meter in a poem.

- Along | the sea- | sands damp | and brown
- The trav | eler hast | ens toward | the town
- The tide | rises, | the tide | falls,
- The twi | light dark | ens, the cur | lew calls

## Rhyme in Poetry

**Perfect Rhyme:** agreement of vowel sounds from last stressed vowel sound onward.

came/same	mopping/hopping	time/lime
time/sublime	together/heather	laughter/rafter

- **Masculine Rhyme:** type of perfect rhyme where the rhyming sounds consist of only **one** syllable  
came/same                      rain/lane                      time/lime                      blame/game
- **Feminine Rhyme:** type of perfect rhyme where the rhyming sounds include **more than one** syllable  
hiring/firing                      mopping/hopping                      tapping/naping                      laughter/rafter

**Imperfect Rhyme:** Partial Rhyme or Eye Rhyme

- **Partial Rhyme:** agreement of part of the words - either the vowel sounds or the ending consonant sounds  
build/held                      in/trim
- **Eye Rhyme:** based on similarity of sight not sound - the words look like they would rhyme  
laughter/daughter

## Authors This Week

### Sir Thomas Wyatt

- Introduced the Italian (or Petrarchan) Sonnet to England!
- *Farewell, Love, and All Thy Laws Forever*

### Not in this book - Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey

- Developed the English (or Shakespearean) Sonnet from Italian
- *Love That Liveth and Reigneth in My Thought* (optional)

### Sir Philip Sidney

- Courtier of Queen Elizabeth and "A True Protestant Knight"
- *Sonnet 31 from Astrophil and Stella*
- *Sonnet 41 from Astrophil and Stella*
- *Leave Me, O Love*
- *An Apology for Poetry*



Sidney



Wyatt

## Edmund Spenser

- *Sonnet 68* from *Amoretti*
- *Sonnet 75* from *Amoretti*
- Written for his new wife
- *The Fairie Queene* – the Romantic Epic

Edmund  
Spenser



Young  
Shakespeare



## William Shakespeare

- *Sonnet 73*
- *Sonnet 116*
- *Sonnet 130*
- His sonnets were written during an outbreak of Black Plague when theatres were closed
- PLAYS!

## Christopher Marlowe

- *The Passionate Shepherd to His Love*

Raleigh



## Sir Walter Raleigh

- Courtier, Knight, Explorer - Expedition to New World – colonization of Roanoke, the lost colony
- Executed for treason under James I
- Video on website about his life at Tower of London
- Wrote *The History of the World* during imprisonment in the Tower of London
- *The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd*

## John Donne

- *Song*
- *A Valediction Forbidding Morning*
- *Holy Sonnet 14*

## George Herbert

- *Jordan (2)*
- *Love (3)*
- *The Pulley*

## Ben Jonson

- *Song to Celia*
- *Still to be Neat*
- *On My First Son*

## Elizabeth I ruled 1558-1603

- Protestant – raised as a Lutheran by mother & tutors
- The heart of the **Elizabethan Age!**

## The Elizabethan Age!

- An Age of Exploration
- Elizabethan Piracy
- Elizabethan Music & Dance
- Elizabethan Sports
- Elizabethan Clothing & Food
- Elizabethan Superstitions
- Nobility in Elizabethan Times
- Elizabethan Age known for Literature
- Elizabethan Theatre



Young Elizabeth



Elizabeth I  
Armada Portrait

## James I ruled Scotland 1567-1625/ruled England 1603

James I



# Shakespeare's Plays!

## Comedies

All's Well That Ends Well  
**As You Like It**  
Comedy of Errors  
Love's Labour's Lost  
Measure for Measure  
Merchant of Venice  
Merry Wives of Windsor  
Midsummer Night's Dream  
**Much Ado about Nothing**  
**Taming of the Shrew**  
Tempest  
Twelfth Night  
Two Gentlemen of Verona  
Winter's Tale



## Histories

Cymbeline  
Henry IV, Part I  
Henry IV, Part II  
Henry V  
Henry VI, Part I  
Henry VI, Part II  
Henry VI, Part III  
Henry VIII  
King John  
Pericles  
Richard II  
Richard III



## Tragedies

Antony and Cleopatra  
Coriolanus  
**Hamlet**  
**Julius Caesar**  
King Lear  
**Macbeth**  
Othello  
**Romeo and Juliet**  
Timon of Athens  
Titus Andronicus  
Troilus and Cressida



Globe Theatre

