

More on Music

Rhythm and Meter



Rhythm Cards

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♩	♮	♩	♪

Rhetorical Stresses

- ❁ All words have natural stresses, and we create rhetorical stresses.

Ex. It's hard to believe *Megan* is driving.

Ex. It's hard to believe *MEGAN* is driving.

Ex. It's hard to believe *Megan* is *DRIVING*.

Inversion is a natural way to create a rhetorical stress.

Megan is driving, it's hard to believe.



Rhythm is based on pauses

- ❁ Periods, semi-colons, and commas create pauses- some more forceful than others.
- ❁ A poetic line is a unit that creates a pause in the flow of speech- sometimes large sometimes small.
- ❁ End-stopped line is one in which the end of the line corresponds with the natural speech pause.
- ❁ Run-on lines or enjambment are those in which the sense of the line moves on without pause into the next line.
- ❁ There are also pauses within a line- caesuras- created by spaces or punctuation.

I felt a Funeral, in my Brain
And Mourners to and fro
Kept treading- treading- til it seemed
That Sense was breaking through-

And when they all were seated,
A Service, like a Drum-
Kept beating- beating- till I thought
My Mind was going numb-

And then I heard them lift a Box
And creak across my Soul
With those same Boots of Lead, again,
Then Space- began to toll,

As all the Heavens were a Bell,
And Being, but an Ear,
And I, and Silence, some strange
Race Wrecked, solitary, here-

And then a Plank in Reason, broke,
And I dropped down, and down-
And hit a World, at every plunge,

And Finished knowing- then-

- Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

- I. What are the primary images- and what senses are they appealing to?
- II. Which words have striking connotations and/or create tone?
- III. How does Dickinson use consonance, assonance, rhyme, half-rhyme?
- IV. How does Dickinson use inversion?
- V. How does she use caesuras and enjambment?
- VI. What is the meaning of this poem?