

# ANALYSIS OF A POEM (OUTLINE)

1. Title (literal or figurative)
2. Theme / mood
3. Thematic structure
4. Symbols / allusions
5. Lyrical hero
6. Rhythm / rhyme

# POETIC RHYTHMS (METERS)

- Poetic rhythm depends on the alteration of stressed (-) and unstressed (U) syllables:
  - *My heart's in the Highlands, my heart is not here,..*
  - U-UU-UU-UU-
- The frequency of stressed syllables defines whether it is a two-syllable or three-syllable meter:
  - U-U/U-U/U-U/U-
- If the last meter is incomplete and does not correspond to the rest of the line, it has to be omitted

# TWO-SYLLABLE METERS

- **Iambus (U-)**

- *The Prince of Cumberland! that is a step...* (W. Shakespeare)
- U-/U-/U-/U-/U-

- **Trochee (-U)**

- *Tyger! Tyger! Burning bright*  
*In the forest of the night...* (W. Blake)
- -U/-U/-U/-  
-U/-U/-U/-

# THREE-SYLLABLE METERS

- **Dactyl** (-UU)
  - ***Just** for a **handful** of **silver** he **left** us,.. (R. Browning)*
  - -UU/-UU/-UU/-U
- **Amphibrach** (U-U)
  - *All **ready** to **put** up the **tents** for my **circus**...* (Dr. Seuss)
  - U-U/U-U/U-U/U-U
- **Anapest** (UU-)
  - *The **Assyrian** came **down** like the **wolf** on the **fold**,.. (Lord Byron)*
  - UU-/UU-/UU-/UU-