

## English Poetry: Rhythm and Rhyme

### Anapestic Trimeters, Tetrameters and Hexameters

*anapestic:* three syllables - two short followed by one long  
Examples: Babaji up and down for a change up to you

*monometer:* a sentence or phrase having one element

*dimeter:* a sentence or phrase having two elements

*trimeter:* a sentence or phrase having three elements

*tetrameter:* a sentence or phrase having four elements

*heptameter:* a sentence or phrase having five elements

*hexameter:* a sentence or phrase which has six elements

#### Examples

##### 1) Anapestic tetrameters (4 elements):

- a) It's a nice little pond.  
It is clean, it is neat.
- b) Where the water is warm,  
There is plenty to eat.
- c) And today the Great Yertle, that marvelous he;  
He is King of the Mud - that is all he can see.  
(from "Yertle the Turtle" by Dr. Seuss)

##### 2) Anapestic hexameters (6 elements):

- a) Now just go and sit down in the lounge where I've laid out some beer and a glass.
- b) The immortal desire of immortals we saw in their faces and sighed.  
(From "The Wanderings of Oisín" by W.B. Yeats)

##### 3) Anapestic trimeters (3 elements):

A **Limerick** is a form of verse, usually humorous and sometimes rude, in five-line, predominantly using anapestic trimeters with a strict rhyme scheme of AABBA, in which the first, second and fifth line rhyme, while the third and fourth lines are shorter and share a different rhyme. The form first appeared in England in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. For example:

There was a young man from Leeds  
Who swallowed a packet of seeds  
Within half an hour  
His head was a flower  
And his chest was covered with weeds!

The following page contains some more examples.

There was a young lady from Leeds  
Who swallowed a package of seeds.  
Now this sorry young lass  
Is quite covered in grass,  
But has all the tomatoes she needs.

There was a young schoolboy of Rye,  
Who was baked by mistake in a pie.  
To his mother's disgust  
He emerged through the crust,  
And said, with a yawn, "Where am I?"

There was a young fellow named Flynn  
Who was really remarkably thin.  
When he carried a pole  
People said, "Bless my soul!  
I really didn't know you've a twin."

There was an old man from Peru  
Who dreamt he was eating his shoe.  
He woke in the night,  
With a terrible fright,  
And found it was perfectly true.

In the village of Jingamafloo,  
Which is a long way from me and you,  
When a person dies  
The others shout "Surprise!"  
"Now we'll all get a little more stew."

There was a young man from Gosham,  
Who took out his coconuts to wash 'em,  
His wife said "Jack!,  
If you don't put 'em back,  
I'll get out my hammer and squash 'em!".

There was an old man from Sprocket,  
Who went up to space in a rocket,  
The rocket went bang,  
His arse went clang,  
And his balls ended up in his pocket.

There was a young girl from Madras  
Who had a most beautiful ass  
Not rounded and pink  
As you probably think  
But grey with big ears, and ate grass

There was a young man from Ealing  
Who had a peculiar feeling  
He walked up the wall  
Somehow didn't fall  
And managed to walk on the ceiling