Finding the Stresses in a Poem

Name: _____

The rhythm of the words in a poem is like the beat in music. This rhythm makes the poem sound musical and interesting to the reader or listener.

Rhythm in poetry is made up of stressed and unstressed syllables or words. A stressed syllable or word in a poem is marked with a / over it. An unstressed syllable or word is marked with a ^ over it.

The stress of single syllable words depends on the words in the line or sentence.

/ ^ / ^ / ^ /

Example 1: Jack and Jill went up the hill.

For multi-syllable words, we mark each syllable with a sign.

/ ^ / ^ / ^ /

Example: Twinkle, twinkle little star.

Write the stressed and unstressed symbols above the beginning of the poem below.

The Walrus and the Carpenter

from *Through the Looking Glass*
by Lewis Carroll

The sun was shining on the sea,
Shining with all his might:
He did his very best to make
The billows smooth and bright—
And this was odd, because it was
The middle of the night.

The moon was shining sulkily,
Because she thought the sun
Had got no business to be there
After the day was done—
"It's very rude of him," she said,
"To come and spoil the fun!"

The sea was wet as wet could be,
The sands were dry as dry.
You could not see a cloud, because
No cloud was in the sky:
No birds were flying over head—
There were no birds to fly.

Copyright © 2015 K12reader.com. All Rights Reserved. Free for educational use at home or in classrooms.

Finding the Stresses in a Poem

Name: Key

The rhythm of the words in a poem is like the beat in music. This rhythm makes the poem sound musical and interesting to the reader or listener.

Rhythm in poetry is made up of stressed and unstressed syllables or words. A stressed syllable or word in a poem is marked with a / over it. An unstressed syllable or word is marked with a ^ over it.

The stress of single syllable words depends on the words in the line or sentence.

/ ^ / ^ / ^ /

Example 1: Jack and Jill went up the hill.

For multi-syllable words, we mark each syllable with a sign.

/ ^ / ^ / ^ /

Example: Twinkle, twinkle little star.

Write the stressed and unstressed symbols above the beginning of the poem below.

The Walrus and the Carpenter

from *Through the Looking Glass*
by Lewis Carroll

^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
The sun was shining on the sea,
^ / ^ / ^ /
Shining with all his might:
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
He did his very best to make
^ / ^ / ^ /
The billows smooth and bright—
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
And this was odd, because it was
^ / ^ / ^ /
The middle of the night.
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
The moon was shining sulkily,
^ / ^ / ^ /
Because she thought the sun
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
Had got no business to be there

^ / ^ / ^ /
After the day was done—
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
"It's very rude of him," she said,
^ / ^ / ^ /
"To come and spoil the fun!"
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
The sea was wet as wet could be,
^ / ^ / ^ /
The sands were dry as dry.
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
You could not see a cloud, because
^ / ^ / ^ /
No cloud was in the sky:
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
No birds were flying over head—
^ / ^ / ^ /
There were no birds to fly.

Copyright © 2015 K12reader.com. All Rights Reserved. Free for educational use at home or in classrooms.