

# Astrophil and Stella 1

By [Sir Philip Sidney](#)

Loving in truth, and fain in verse my love to show,  
That she, dear she, might take some pleasure of my pain,—  
Pleasure might cause her read, reading might make her know,  
Knowledge might pity win, and pity grace obtain,—  
I sought fit words to paint the blackest face of woe;  
Studying inventions fine her wits to entertain,  
Oft turning others' leaves, to see if thence would flow  
Some fresh and fruitful showers upon my sunburn'd brain.  
But words came halting forth, wanting invention's stay;  
Invention, Nature's child, fled step-dame Study's blows;  
And others' feet still seem'd but strangers in my way.  
Thus great with child to speak and helpless in my throes,  
Biting my truant pen, beating myself for spite,  
"Fool," said my Muse to me, "look in thy heart, and write."

**Scansion:** Scan the poem, marking stressed (/) and non-stressed (.) syllables.

What type of foot and meter is used by the author?

## Feet: Names and Stress

iambic foot = . /

trochaic foot = / .

anapestic foot = . . /

dactylic foot = / . .

spondaic foot = / /

pyrrhic foot = . .

1: **Monometer:**

2: **Dimeter:**

3: **Trimeter:**

4: **Tetrameter:**

5: **Pentameter:**

6: **Hexameter:**

7: **Heptameter:**

8: **Octometer:**

9: **Nanometer:**

10: **Decameter:**

## *Pick Apart a Poem!*

### **Can I summarize?**

**Voice:** Who is speaking?

To whom?

What is the effect?

### **Setting/Context:**

**What happens?** – Describe the shift in the poem. How is the poem different after the shift?

### **Rhyme and Meter:**

Which elements of the poem are highlighted?

### **Title:**

What can I infer from this title?

### **Author:**

What do I already know about this author?

### **Themes:**

**Interpretation:** How does the author employ literary techniques to communicate the poem's major themes?

### **Mood and Tone:**

What feelings and attitudes are evoked in this poem?

### **Literary Devices:** What literary devices can you identify?

(Metaphor, Alliteration, Imagery etc.)

1.

**Textual Evidence:**

2.

**Textual Evidence:**

3.

**Textual Evidence:**

4.

**Textual Evidence:**