

# Meter Lesson

- Within three minutes, write down the lyrics to your favorite song.
- How long have you had this song in your memory? What is the song about? Why do you remember it? What helped you remember?

# from *Yertle the Turtle* by Dr. Seuss



"I'm Yertle the Turtle!  
Oh, marvelous me!  
For I am the ruler of  
all that I see!"

"Your Majesty. Please...  
I don't like to complain.  
But down here below,  
we are feeling great pain."

"And the turtles, of course...  
All the turtles are free  
As turtles and, maybe,  
all creatures should be."

from 5.1.440-447 (Puck)

*If we sha-dows have of-fend-ed,  
Think but this, and all is mend-ed,  
That you have but slum-ber'd here  
While these vi-sions did ap-pear.  
And this weak and i-dle theme,  
No more yield-ing but a dream,  
Gent-les, do not re-pre-hend:  
if you par-don, we will mend:*

- How many strong beats are there per line?
- What is the pattern of weak beats to strong beats?
- Is the pattern true for every line?

## from 2.1.18-32 (Puck)

The *king* doth *keep* his *re-vels* *here* to-*night*:  
Take *heed* the *queen* come *not* with-*in* his *sight*;  
For *O-ber-on* is *pass-ing* *fell* and *wrath*,  
Be-*cause* that *she* as *her* at-*tend-ant* *hath*  
A *love-ly* *boy*, *stol-en* from an *In-dian* *king*;  
She *nev-er* *had* so *sweet* a *chan-ge-ling*;  
And *jeal-ous* *O-ber-on* would *have* the *child*  
Knight of his *train*, to *trace* the *for-ests* *wild*;  
But *she* per-*force* with-*holds* the *lov-ed* *boy*,  
Crowns *him* with *flow-ers* and *makes* him *all* her *joy*:  
And *now* they *nev-er* *meet* in *grove* or *green*,  
By *foun-tain* *clear*, or *span-gled* *star-light* *sheen*,  
But, *they* do *square*, that *all* their *elves* for *fear*  
Creep *in-to* a-*corn-cups* and *hide* them *there*.

- How is this passage similar to the last one?
- What are the differences in line length, number of strong beats, pattern of weak to strong beats?

# Terms to Know

- rhythm/meter
- rhyme
- iambic
- tetrameter
- pentameter
- verse
- prose