

Rhythm Practice for Poetry

Place an ictus (/) over the sounds that are stressed. Place a breve (^) over unstressed sounds.

The Star

by Ann and Jane Taylor

/ ^ / ^ / ^ /
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
/ ^ / ^ / ^ /
How I wonder what you are.
/ ^ / ^ / ^ /
Up above the world so high,
/ ^ / ^ / ^ /
Like a diamond in the sky.

The Moon

by Robert Louis Stevenson

^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ /
The moon has a face like the clock in the hall;
^ / ^ / ^ ^ / ^ /
She shines on thieves on the garden wall,
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
On streets and field and harbour quays,
^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ /
And birdies asleep in the forks of the trees.

^ / ^ / ^ ^ / ^ /
The squalling cat and the squeaking mouse,
^ / ^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ /
The howling dog by the door of the house,
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
The bat that lies in bed at noon,
^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ /
All love to be out by the light of the moon.

^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ /
But all of the things that belong to the day
/ ^ ^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ /
Cuddle to sleep to be out of her way;
^ / ^ ^ / ^ / ^ /
And flowers and children close their eyes
^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ / ^ ^ /
Till up in the morning the sun shall arise.

The Wind

by Robert Louis Stevenson

^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
I saw you toss the kites on high
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
And blow the birds about the sky;
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
And all around I heard you pass,
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
Like ladies' skirts across the grass—
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
O wind, a-blowing all day long,
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
O wind, that sings so loud a song!

^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
I saw the different things you did,
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
But always you yourself you hid.
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
I felt you push, I heard you call,
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
I could not see yourself at all—
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
O wind, a-blowing all day long,
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
O wind, that sings so loud a song!

^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
O you that are so strong and cold,
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
O blower, are you young or old?
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
Are you a beast of field and tree,
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
Or just a stronger child than me?
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
O wind, a-blowing all day long,
^ / ^ / ^ / ^ /
O wind, that sings so loud a song!