

# Features of Lyric Poetry:

## Rhythm

rhythm  
metre beat



# Rhythm

Poetry has a rhythmical quality that makes it fun to read. You can hear a beat that is determined by the syllables in words and how these are accented.

Words that have more than one syllable have one syllable that is pronounced more strongly than the others. We say this syllable is 'stressed' or 'accented.'

In the word *jumping* you can hear two syllables. The first one is emphasised more than the second.

We use symbols to show the stressed and unstressed syllables within a word.

/ stressed                      ^ unstressed

/                      ^  
jumping

Read these examples and listen to the stressed and unstressed syllables:

/                      ^  
purple

^                      /  
hotel

^                      /                      ^  
disturbing

# Rhythm Patterns

Look at the rhythm patterns in a few lines of this nursery rhyme. You can clap the stressed syllables as you say them.

    /   ^     /   ^   ^   ^   /     
Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall

    /   ^     /   ^   ^   ^   ^   /     
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall

    /   ^     ^     /   ^   ^   /   ^   ^   ^   /     
All the King's horses and all the King's men

    /   ^     ^     /   ^   ^   /   ^   ^   /     
Couldn't put Humpty together again

Patterns of rhythm in a poem are referred to as the *metre* of the poem.

