

Meter and Tempo

Meter is about the regular rhythm or pattern built into the poem's structure.

Tempo is about the speed and flow of how you read the poem.

Both work together to make the poem sound exciting, calm, or emotional!

Winter Night

Blow, wind, blow!

Drift the flying snow!

Send it twirling, twirling overhead.

There's a bedroom in a tree

Where snug as snug can be,

The squirrel nests in his cozy bed.

Shriek, wind, shriek!

Make the branches creak!

Battle with the boughs till break of day!

In a snow cave warm and tight

Through the icy winter night

The rabbit sleeps the peaceful hour away.

Scold, wind, scold!

So bitter and so bold!

Shake the windows with your tap, tap, tap!

With half-shut, dreamy eyes

The drowsy baby lies

Cuddled closely in his mother's lap.

By Mary F Butts

Meter

Meter is the pattern of beats or rhythm in a poem.

It happens because of stressed (strong) and unstressed (soft) syllables in the words.

Meter makes the poem sound musical when you read it aloud.

Tempo

In nature, the wind changes in speed. The tempo of the poem, shifts to match the wind's changing moods.

Which words or phrases feel like the rushing wind?

Which words or phrases reflect the quiet calm moments?



Use two different highlighter pens to show the slow and fast parts of the poem.