PRACTICE SHEET

PART 1a: Metrical Feet and Metrical Lines

Assume that each of the following is the first line of a different poem written in anapestic meter. For each line, ***1)*** *read the line aloud;* ***2)*** *mark the anapests (uu/);* ***3)*** *use slashes to divide the line into metrical feet;* ***4)*** *determine the name of the metrical line (e.g., anapestic tetrameter).*

How I long to go live in a little white house on the shores of McGillikin Lake.

That the earth isn't flat is a fact that you can't contradict.

Like sand through an hourglass, so are the days of our lives.

Little kids seem to grow in the blink of an eye.

PART 1b

Print out Jack Prelutsky's poem "The Turkey Shot Out of the Oven." The first two verses are below, but for practice, I suggest you do the whole poem. ***1)*** *Mark the anapests.* ***2)*** *Note which lines are headless, truncated, or otherwise catalectic.* ***3)*** *What is the dominant metrical line?*

The turkey shot out of the oven
and rocketed into the air,
it knocked every plate off the table
and partly demolished a chair.

It ricocheted into a corner
and burst with a deafening boom,
then splattered all over the kitchen,
completely obscuring the room.

© Jack Prelutsky from SOMETHING BIG HAS BEEN HERE (Greenwillow Books)

PART 2: Writing

It's your turn! Write a quatrain in anapestic meter. **Today's poetry topic is SPRING or a topic of your choice**. If you can swing TWO quatrains, all the better! Use the examples here and in the lesson as models for your work. The number of metrical feet is up to you. **Please share your quatrain** in the class forum to get feedback and/or ask questions.

SAMPLE STUDENT QUATRAINS

It's the first day of Spring and I'm searching
for my boots that love clomping in mud.
All the puddles are perfectly splishy
and the lawn is beginning to flood.

But my feet have no boots to go stomping
so I sigh at the world from inside
as the first day of Spring softly taunts me—
and my boots?
They continue to hide.

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