

as the basic form of his poem.

Two dactyls per line is called **dactylic dimeter**.

The names of the meters, based on how many poetic feet there are in each line, are:

one - **monometer**

two - **dimeter**

three - **trimeter**

four - **tetrameter**

five - **pentameter**

six - **hexameter**

seven - **heptameter**

eight - **octameter**

For example, a line of **trochaic tetrameter** has four trochees:

1                      2                      3                      4  
**Double, / double, / toil and / trouble...**

A line of **iambic pentameter** has five iambs.

Shakespeare used iambic pentameter

for King Henry's inspiring speech in *Henry V*:

For **he** to-**day** that **sheds** his **blood** with **me**  
Shall **be** my **brother**; **be** he **ne'er** so **vile**,  
This day shall gentle his condition:  
And gentlemen in England now a-bed  
Shall think themselves accursed they were not here...