Notice also that although most of Tennyson’s lines have punctuation at the ends, creating pauses, some of the lines do not pause. Look at the last two lines in the second stanza, the last two lines in the third stanza, and the first and third lines in the fourth stanza. In these lines we would read right through the rhyme, rather than pausing on it. A line that pauses or stops on an end rhyme is called end-stopped, and a line that reads through the end rhyme is called enjambed. Tennyson used a combination of end-stopped and enjambed lines. What difference does this make? Well, look at the fourth stanza; by enjambing the first line, Tennyson developed a straight run of eight iambs, sixteen syllables, without a pause; the line says that the “flood may bear me far,” and the long enjambed passage goes far.

Sunset and evening star, end-stopped
And one clear call for me! end-stopped
And may there be no moaning of the bar, end-stopped
When I put out to sea. end-stopped

But such a tide as moving seems asleep, end-stopped
Too full for sound and foam, end-stopped
When that which drew from out the boundless deep end-stopped
Turns again home. end-stopped

Twilight and evening bell, end-stopped
And after that the dark! end-stopped
And may there be no sadness of farewell end-stopped
When I embark; end-stopped

For though from out our bourne of Time and Place end-stopped
The flood may bear me far, end-stopped
I hope to see my Pilot face to face end-stopped
When I have crossed the bar. n/a