**The ABC of Composing Poetry**

Some people may find it difficult to write English poems. It is, in fact, not as hard as one thinks.

First of all, we must know how to scan a verse, that is, to divide every line of a poem into several "feet," and say the number and kind of those feet. The combination of ONE accented and one or more than one unaccented syllables of a foot cannot be less than two or more than three. Nevertheless, there are a few exceptions. For instance, the accented monosyllabic at the beginning of a line has sometimes to do the duty of an entire iambic foot:

*Say* the king *has thrown* his war-dar down.

Lines of two feet are iambic; of three, trimetres; of four, tetrameters; of five, pentameters, and so on.

Most commonly, the lines of a poem have the same number of metres. But in order to express ourselves more freely, we may use unequal metres in every line. Take Wordsworth's "The Rainbow" as example:

- My heart leaps up when I behold (tetrameter)
- The lark in the clear sky (trimetre)
- So was it when my life began (tetrameter)
- So is it now I am a man (tetrameter)
- So is it when I shall grow old (tetrameter)

Or let me sing (bimeter).

(Translator: T.S. Wong)

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**Proverbs**

*Father we rose early while ye sleep.*

-Hans Koofer (Clement M. Koofer School)

*A life without a friend is a life without a sun.*

-John Wong (St. F. Xavier's College)

*Art is long, life is short.*

-C. F. Low (Elsie Elizabeth School)

*There is no friend so faithful as a book.*

-W. W. Koo (Kwai Yan College)

*Knowledge without morality is simply rashness.*

-Y. B. L.

*Wisdom is the right use of knowledge.*

-R. T. Lau (T.C.)