Steps to Scanning a Poem:

1. Read the poem, marking stressed syllables (usually with an ˘ for unstressed and an ´ for stressed) with boldface.
2. Count up the number of syllables per line you see. Also mark the rhyming lines with a, b, c, d, etc.
3. Using the syllable counts (or beats) and marked up poetry, determine how the metric feet are arranged, and note the number of feet per line. Remember that metric feet are just chunks of stressed and unstressed syllables in patterns. They can come in the following combinations:
   a. Iamb (Iambic): UNSTRESSED + **STRESSED** (example: de-**stroy**)
   b. Trochee (Trochaic): **STRESSED** + UNSTRESSED (example: **Eng**-lish)
   c. Spondee (Spondaic): **STRESSED** + **STRESSED** (example: **foot-ball**)
   d. Anapest (Anapestic): UNSTRESSED + UNSTRESSED + **STRESSED** (example: in-ter-**rupt**)
   e. Dactyl (Dactylic): **STRESSED** + UNSTRESSED + UNSTRESSED (example: **straw**-ber-ry)
4. After figuring out the feet per line and syllable patterns, identify the type of feet the poem predominantly uses.
5. Select the predominant feet per line in the poem to name the meter.

a. 1=Monometer
b. 2=Dimeter
c. 3=Trimeter
d. 4=Tetrameter
e. 5=Pentameter
f. 6=Hexameter
g. 7=Heptameter
h. 8=Octameter