



“It’s a two-step beat,” Poodle explained,
“ba BOOM, ba BOOM, ba BOOM, ba BOOM!”

“Each beat has an **unstressed** syllable
followed by a **stressed** syllable.

the **LONG**
fog **FALLS**
and **SOFT**
ly **SHROUDS**

“Hear that? We call that double-beat,
with two syllables: unstressed-stressed,
an **iamb**. It is **iambic meter**.

“Lines one and three of the ballad
have four iambs each:

The **long** / fog **falls** / and **soft** / ly **shrouds**
The **ri** / ver **glides** / and **bil** / lows **out**



“When there are four iambs in a line,
we call that **iambic tetrameter**.

Tetra means four,
and **meter** means measure.
So *tetrameter* means four measures!

1 2 3 4
The **long** / fog **falls** / and **soft** / ly **shrouds**

“Lines two and four have **iambic trimeter**
because they have only three iambs:

The long fog falls and softly shrouds
the **boughs** / in **clouds** / of **white**.
The river glides and billows out
to **hide** / the **woods** / all **night**.

1 2 3
to **hide** / the **woods** / all **night**

“**Tri** means three,
and **meter** means measure,
so *trimeter* means three measures!