Versification and Metrics

1. Meter: systemization of rhythm. Generally, it refers to the combination in a line of verse of  
a) the number of feet, and  b) the type of foot, e.g., *iambic pentameter* [see below]

2. Foot: the metrical unit, usually a combination of one accented and one or two unaccented syllables.

   Types of feet:
   - *Iamb*: one unaccented followed by one accented syllable (e.g., "avoid")
   - *Trochee*: one accented followed by one unaccented syllable (e.g., "rather")
   - *Anapest*: two unaccented followed by one accented syllable, (e.g., "intervene")
   - *Dactyl*: one accented followed by two unaccented syllables (e.g. "reference")

3. Line of verse: a line is composed of one or more feet. The following names are used to denote various line lengths, i.e., the number of feet in the line:

   - *Monometer*: one foot
   - *Pentameter*: five feet
   - *Dimeter*: two feet
   - *Hexameter* (or Alexandrine): six feet
   - *Trimeter*: three feet
   - *Heptameter*: seven feet
   - *Tetrameter*: four feet

   (The metrical description of a line involves two things: the type of foot and the number of feet. Thus, a line containing five iambic feet would be described as *iambic pentameter*.)

   **Note: iambic pentameter is the most common traditional English meter.**

4. Caesura: main pause within the line

5. Run-on line: when the end of the line does not coincide with a normal speech pause.

6. End-stopped line: when it does coincide

7. Onomatopoeia: words imitating actual sounds: "hiss," "bang."

8. Assonance: repetition of identical or related vowel sounds, especially in stressed syllables:
   "scream-beach"; "unclean-appear".

9. Consonance: a kind of rhyme in which the linked words share similar consonant sounds but different vowel sounds: "live-love;" "mac-truck" See, also, Slant rime. over.

10. Alliteration: repetition of consonants, particularly initial (first) consonants: "lovely
Rime: similar sounds; usually, of similar-sounding words at end of lines, known as end rime;

but much poetry has internal, or medial, rime (within the line, such as assonance, consonance, and alliteration: see, below, also).

11. Masculine rime: rimed syllables are the accented final syllables of the words: "install-recall", "still-hill"
12. Feminine rime: accented syllable followed by an unaccented final syllable: "ending-bending".
15. True rime: final vowel is the same and any consonant following it is the same: "hot-rot".
16. The most common stanzas and line patterns are: Couplet (heroic, closed), Terza Rima, Quatrain, Rime Royal, Ottava Rima, Spenserian Stanza, Sonnet (Italian, Shakespearian, Irregular).
17. Blank Verse: unrimed iambic pentameter not broken into formal units (e.g. Shakespeare's dramatic blank verse).
18. Free Verse: does not conform to any fixed pattern (e.g. Whitman).
   (Remember, when we discuss rime, we are talking about repetition of sounds: alliteration, assonance, consonance, slant rime, and true rime).
19. Poetry is evaluated and appreciated on five interrelated levels: 1. meaning 2. musical quality 3. language 4. style 5. emotional experience.