Reading a poem aloud: metre

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Richard Dury
Bergamo, 29th October 2008

4-beat verse

GI-ra	GI-ra	TON-	DO

4-beat verse

GI-ra	GI-ra	TON-	DO
CAS-	CA	il MON-	DO

4-beat verse

GI-ra	GI-ra	TON-	DO
CAS-	CA	il MON-	DO

RING a	RING o'	RO-	SES

4-beat verse

GI-ra	GI-ra	TON-	DO
CAS-	CA	il MON-	DO

RING a	RING o'	RO-	SES
a POCK-et	-FUL of	PO-	SIES

4-beat verse

GI-ra	GI-ra	TON-	DO
CAS-	CA	il MON-	DO

RING a	RING o'	RO-	SES
a POCK-et	-FUL of	PO-	SIES
a-TISH-	OO	a-TISH-	OO

4-beat verse

GI-ra	GI-ra	TON-	DO
CAS-	CA	il MON-	DO

RING a	RING o'	RO-	SES
a POCK-et	-FUL of	PO-	SIES
a-TISH-	OO	a-TISH-	OO
we ALL	FALL	DOWN	(X)

4-beat verse

Gi	ra	gi	ra	ton	do

Ring	a	ring	o'	ro	ses

A	pock	et	full	of	po	sies

4-beat verse

/	x	/	x	/	/
Gi	ra	gi	ra	ton	do

Ring	a	ring	o'	ro	ses

A	pock	et	full	of	po	sies

4-beat verse

/	x	/	x	/	/
Gi	ra	gi	ra	ton	do

/	x	/	x	/	/
Ring	a	ring	o'	ro	ses

A	pock	et	full	of	po	sies

4-beat verse

/	x	/	x	/	/
Gi	ra	gi	ra	ton	do

/	x	/	x	/	/
Ring	a	ring	o'	ro	ses

x	/	x	/	x	/	/
A	pock	et	full	of	po	sies

- Derek Attridge, *Poetic Rhythm. An Introduction* (Cambridge University Press, 1995)
- Derek Attridge, *The Rhythms of English Poetry* (Longman, 1982)

5-beat verse: iambic pentameter

That	time	will	come	and	take	my	love	a-	way

(64)

5-beat verse: iambic pentameter

	/								
That	time	will	come	and	take	my	love	a-	way

(64)

5-beat verse: iambic pentameter

	/		/						
That	time	will	come	and	take	my	love	a-	way

(64)

5-beat verse: iambic pentameter

	/		/		/				
That	time	will	come	and	take	my	love	a-	way

(64)

5-beat verse: iambic pentameter

	/		/		/		/		
That	time	will	come	and	take	my	love	a-	way

(64)

5-beat verse: iambic pentameter

	/		/		/		/		/
That	time	will	come	and	take	my	love	a-	way

(64)

5-beat verse: iambic pentameter

x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
That	time	will	come	and	take	my	love	a-	way

(64)

Variation 1: inversion

/	x								
As	an	un-	per-	fect	ac-	-tor	on	the	stage

(23)

Variation 1: inversion

/	x	x	/						
As	an	un-	per-	fect	ac-	-tor	on	the	stage

Variation 1: inversion

/	x	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
As	an	un-	per-	fect	ac-	-tor	on	the	stage

Variation 1: inversion

/	x	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
As	an	un-	per-	fect	ac-	-tor	on	the	stage

(23)

Look-	ing	on	dark-	ness	which	the	blind	do	see

(27)

Variation 1: inversion

/	x	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
As	an	un-	per-	fect	ac-	-tor	on	the	stage

(23)

/	x								
Look-	ing	on	dark-	ness	which	the	blind	do	see

(27)

Variation 1: inversion

/	x	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
As	an	un-	per-	fect	ac-	-tor	on	the	stage

(23)

/	x	x	/						
Look-	ing	on	dark-	ness	which	the	blind	do	see

(27)

Variation 1: inversion

/	x	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
As	an	un-	per-	fect	ac-	-tor	on	the	stage

(23)

/	x	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
Look-	ing	on	dark-	ness	which	the	blind	do	see

(27)

Variation 2: two beats together

- (i) / / x x

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And	troub-	le	deaf	heav'n	with	my	boot-	less	cries

(29)

Variation 2: two beats together

- (i) / / x x

	/						/		/
And	troub-	le	deaf	heav'n	with	my	boot-	less	cries

(29)

Variation 2: two beats together

- (i) / / x x

	/		/	/			/		/
And	troub-	le	deaf	heav'n	with	my	boot-	less	cries

(29)

Variation 2: two beats together

- (i) / / x x

x	/	x	/	/	x	x	/	x	/
And	troub-	le	deaf	heav'n	with	my	boot-	less	cries

(29)

Variation 2: two beats together

- (i) / / x x

x	/	x	/	/	x	x	/	x	/
And	troub-	le	deaf	heav'n	with	my	boot-	less	cries

(29)

Variation 2: two beats together

- (i) / / x x

x	/	x	/	/	x	x	/	x	/
And	troub-	le	deaf	heav'n	with	my	boot-	less	cries

(29)

- (ii) x x / /

Variation 2: two beats together

- (i) / / x x

x	/	x	/	/	x	x	/	x	/
And	troub-	le	deaf	heav'n	with	my	boot-	less	cries

(29)

- (ii) x x / /

as	the	death	bed	where-	on	it	must	ex-	pire

(73)

Variation 2: two beats together

- (i) / / x x

x	/	x	/	/	x	x	/	x	/
And	troub-	le	deaf	heav'n	with	my	boot-	less	cries

(29)

- (ii) x x / /

		/	/				/		/
as	the	death	bed	where-	on	it	must	ex-	pire

(73)

Variation 2: two beats together

- (i) / / x x

x	/	x	/	/	x	x	/	x	/
And	troub-	le	deaf	heav'n	with	my	boot-	less	cries

(29)

- (ii) x x / /

		/	/		/		/		/
as	the	death	bed	where-	on	it	must	ex-	pire

(73)

Variation 2: two beats together

- (i) / / x x

x	/	x	/	/	x	x	/	x	/
And	troub-	le	deaf	heav'n	with	my	boot-	less	cries

(29)

- (ii) x x / /

x	x	/	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
as	the	death	bed	where-	on	it	must	ex-	pire

(73)

Variation 2: two beats together

- (i) / / x x

x	/	x	/	/	x	x	/	x	/
And	troub-	le	deaf	heav'n	with	my	boot-	less	cries

(29)

- (ii) x x / /

x	x	/	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
as	the	death	bed	where-	on	it	must	ex-	pire

(73)

Problem cases

x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
In	pro-	cess	of	the	seas-	ons	I	have	seen

x	/	x	/	x					/
Three	Ap-	ril	per-	fumes	in	three	hot	Junes	burned

(104)

Problem cases

x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
In	pro-	cess	of	the	seas-	ons	I	have	seen

x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
Three	Ap-	ril	per-	fumes	in	three	hot	Junes	burned

(104)

Problem cases

x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
In	pro-	cess	of	the	seas-	ons	I	have	seen

x	/	x	/	x	x	/	/	/	/
Three	Ap-	ril	per-	fumes	in	three	hot	Junes	burned

(104)

Problem cases

x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/	x	/
In	pro-	cess	of	the	seas-	ons	I	have	seen

x	/	x	/	x	x	/	x	/	/
Three	Ap-	ril	per-	fumes	in	three	hot	Junes	burned

(104)

So	your	sweet	hue	which	me-	thinks	still	doth	stand

(104)

x	/	x	/				/	x	/
So	your	sweet	hue	which	me-	thinks	still	doth	stand

(104)

x	/	x	/		x	x	/	x	/
So	your	sweet	hue	which	me-	thinks	still	doth	stand

(104)

x	/	x	/	/	x	x	/	x	/
So	your	sweet	hue	which	me-	thinks	still	doth	stand

(104)