

Scan the Poem “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening”.

Generated: Jan 26, 2026

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Scanning a poem means analyzing its rhythm and meter. You do this by marking stressed (´) and unstressed (˘) syllables in each line. This process shows the poem’s pattern and flow. Many English poems follow metrical forms like iambic pentameter (˘ ´) or trochaic tetrameter (´ ˘). Scansion helps uncover the rhythm and pacing intended by the poet. To scan, read each line carefully and mark the syllables. This reveals the poem’s musicality and structure. This makes it easier to understand the poet's style.

Whōse woóds/ thēse áre/ Ĩ thínk/ Ĩ knów.

Hĩs hóuse/ĩs ín/ thē víl/ lǎge, thóugh;

Hē wíll /nǒt seé/ mē stóp/ pǐng héré

Tǒ wáitch/ hĩs woóds/ fíll úp /wĩth snów.

Mỹ lít/ tlē hórsē/ mǔst thínk/ ĩt queér

Tǒ stóp/ wĩthóut/ ǎ fárm/ hǒuse neár

Bētwēén/ thē woóds/ ǎnd fróz/ ěn láke

Thē dárk/ est éve/ ning óf/ thē yeár.

Hē gíves/ hĩs hár/ nēss bélls/ ǎ sháke

Tǒ ásk/ ĩf thére/ ĩs sóme/ mĩstáke.

Thē ón/ lý ó/ thēr soúnd's/ thē sweép

Óf éas/ỹ wínd/ ǎnd dówn/ ỹ fláke.

Thē woóds/ ǎre lóve/ lý, dárk,/ ǎnd deép.

Bǔt í / hǎve pró/mĩsés/ tǒ keép,

ǎnd míles/ tǒ gó/ bēfóre /ĩ sleép,

And míles/ tǒ gó/ běfóre /l sleép.

Prosodic Name:

This scansion shows the metrical structure of the poem, with the first, second, and fourth lines of each stanza having four iambs (pairs of unstressed and stressed syllables) and the third line having three iambs, creating a consistent rhythm throughout the poem.

LxNotes