

Objective

By the end of this lesson, you will be able to identify and create trochaic octameter in poetry.

Materials and Prep

- Paper and pen/pencil
- The poem "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe

Activities

1. Read and analyze "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe. Pay attention to the rhythm and meter of the poem.
2. Practice identifying trochaic octameter by highlighting the stressed and unstressed syllables in selected lines from "The Raven".
3. Create your own trochaic octameter poem. Start by brainstorming a topic and then write eight lines following the trochaic octameter pattern.
4. Share your trochaic octameter poem with a family member or friend and ask for their feedback.

Talking Points

- **What is trochaic octameter?** Trochaic octameter is a metrical pattern in poetry that consists of eight trochees per line. A trochee is a metrical foot consisting of one stressed syllable followed by one unstressed syllable. This pattern creates a rhythmic, bouncy effect in the poem.
- **Why is "The Raven" a good example of trochaic octameter?** "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe is a great example of trochaic octameter because the majority of the lines in the poem follow the trochaic pattern. This helps to create a haunting and memorable rhythm throughout the poem.
- **How can we identify stressed and unstressed syllables?** In English, stressed syllables are usually pronounced with more emphasis or strength. Unstressed syllables are pronounced with less emphasis or are more weakly pronounced. To identify stressed and unstressed syllables, you can try saying the word out loud and listen for the natural emphasis on certain syllables.
- **How can we create our own trochaic octameter poem?** To create a trochaic octameter poem, start by choosing a topic or theme. Then, write eight lines following the trochaic pattern, with each line consisting of eight trochees. Remember to pay attention to the stressed and unstressed syllables as you write.