Iambic Pentameter

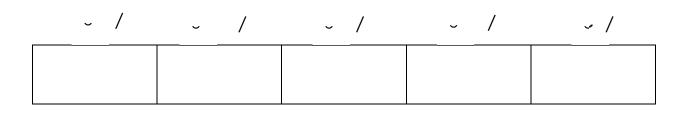
Sonnets are often written in a meter called iambic pentameter: five sets of unstressed syllables followed by stressed syllables so that there are ten syllables in each line.

The example of iambic pentameter below is a line from Shakespeare's play Romeo and Juliet. Say the line quietly to yourself. Can you hear the way that you naturally stress the syllables?

_ /	, /	, /	, /	- /
Two house	holds both	alike	in dig	nity
one foot	one foot	one foot	one foot	one foot

one line of iambic pentameter

DIRECTIONS: Practice writing lines in iambic pentameter. Write one unstressed and stressed "foot" in each box.



J	/	J	/	J	/	~	/	~ ,	/

