## Contents

*Acknowledgments* xi

*Preface* xiii

1. How to Read a Poem 1
2. An Introduction to Meter 8
3. Scansion: A Practical Guide 15
4. More Observations about Metrical Terms 34
5. Meter among Us 36
6. Types of Metrical Lines 42
7. Syllabic or Strong-Stress Meters 50
9. Heartbeat and Diurnal Cycles 67
10. Meter, Rhythm, and Degrees of Stress 69
11. Some Fine Points 73
12. More Practice with Scansion 81
13. Sentimentality 96
14. Writing about Poems 110

*Poem Appendix* 121

*Glossary of Poetry Terms* 133

*Glossary of Fixed Forms and Stanza Forms* 145

*Glossary of Common Poem and Stanza Forms* 151

*Works Cited* 157

*Index* 161

*Authors* 167