**Checklist: Scanning a Poem**

* Read the poem aloud
* Mark the syllables on which the main speech stresses fall. When in doubt, read the line aloud several different ways. Which way seems more natural?
* Are there rhymes? Indicate where they occur.
* How many syllables are there in each line?
* Do any other recurring sound patterns-- alliteration, assonance, cacophony/euphony, onomatopoeia--strike you? (see *IP* p. 162)
* Does the poem set up a reliable pattern and then diverge from it anywhere? If so, how does that irregularity underscore the line’s meaning?

From *An Introduction to Poetry* by X. J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia

Fire and Ice

Some say the world will end in fire,

Some say in ice.

From what I’ve tasted of desire

I hold with those who favor fire.

But if it had to perish twice,

I think I know enough of hate

To say that for destruction ice

Is also great

And would suffice.

By Robert Frost