POETRY IN LATINGLISH

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Remember back in Latin class when you had to recite the four principal parts of a Latin verb? Now, for the regular verbs, the pattern was easy enough to grasp and remember: *am-\( \overline{r} \)*, am\( \overline{v} \), am\( \overline{t} \). All the regular verbs had a stem, and the suffixes you appended to them were predictable: \( \overline{r} \), -\( \overline{are} \), -\( \overline{av} \), -\( \overline{atum} \). However, do you also recall that for some irregular verbs the forms were highly irregular and unpredictable? You found yourself laboriously memorizing such oddities as sum, esse, fu\( \overline{u} \), futurum and fer\( \overline{r} \), ferre, tul\( \overline{u} \), latum.

Well, bearing that in mind, one can create Latinglish poetry. The rules are simple. Each line contains four and only words which must end in \( \overline{r} \), -\( \overline{ere} \), -\( \overline{a} \), and -\( \overline{um} \). When it is read aloud, according to the rules of Latin pronunciation, it must sound like English being Latinized, and actually convey meaning in a form of terse, telegraphic speech. The stems of first two words used may be identical or different.

As a first example, here is a familiar poem in Latinglish. On the left it is written as Latin would be. On the right side it is transcribed into a more readable English orthography. Some notes about the liberties I had to take with Latin pronunciation to make American English sounds:
prevocalic \( \overline{v} \) has a \( \overline{w} \) sound as in “way”
prevocalic \( \overline{i} \) has a \( \overline{y} \) sound as in “yes”
prevocalic \( \overline{ci} \) has a \( \overline{sh} \) sound as in “shop”
a followed by a doubled consonant has the short \( \overline{u} \) sound as in “tub.”
o followed by a doubled consonant has the \( \overline{aw} \) sound as in “law”
ai is used for the long \( \overline{I} \) sound as in “high”
ae is used for the short \( \overline{a} \) sound as in “hat”

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
Tuincl\( \overline{r} \) tuinclere tain\( \overline{u} \) starrum,
Vanandr\( \overline{u} \) vanndere uati\( \overline{u} \) arrum,
App\( \overline{u} \) abbaurre verld\( \overline{u} \) sohaium,
Laic\( \overline{u} \) daimindere ind\( \overline{u} \) sciaium.

Twinkle-o, twinkler-ay, tiny, star-um.
Wonder-o, wonder-ay, what-you-ee are-um?
Up-o, above-eray world-ee so-high-um.
Like-o, diamond-eray in de’ sky-um.

Here’s another, which I am sure you will recognize:
Jingl\( \overline{u} \), bellere, olld\( \overline{u} \), veium,
Fann\( \overline{u} \), raidere, invanhors\( \overline{u} \), sleium.

Jingle-o, bell-eray, all de’ way-um.
Fun-o, ride-eray, in-one-horse-ee, sleigh-um.

Daeci\( \overline{u} \), daeciere, thru\( \overline{u} \), snovum,
Invann\( \overline{u} \), horsere, open\( \overline{u} \), sleium
Ove\( \overline{r} \), hilsere, v\( \overline{u} \), govum
Laef\( \overline{r} \), laefere, olld\( \overline{u} \), veium.
Bell\( \overline{u} \), bellere, bbateil\( \overline{u} \), ringum
Meic\( \overline{u} \), meicere, spirit\( \overline{u} \), braitum
Fann\( \overline{u} \), fannere, istu\( \overline{u} \), singum
Slei\( \overline{u} \), slere, songi, tunaitum.

Dash-o, dash-eray, through-ee, snow-um.
In-one-o, horse-eray, open-ee, sleigh-um.
Over-o, hills-eray, we, go-um.
Laugh-o, laugh-eray, all de’ way-um.
Bell-o, bell-eray, bobtail-ee, ring-um.
Make-o, make-eray, spirit-ee, bright-um.
Fun-o, fun-eray, is to-ee sing-um.
Sleigh-o, sleigh-ray, song-ee, tonight-um.