Pun

A pun is a play on words that is often meant to be humorous. In poetry, we use puns for humor, particularly in poems like limericks, or we use them to give something double meaning to get the reader to think about an idea in a new way.

In this limerick, the author is playing with the word meter. The poem is meant to draw attention to the scansion in the last line (the line with the really bad timing).

Meter= something that measures gas consumption (in this poem)

Meter= the rhythm of a line of poetry

A forgetful old gasman named Dieter,
Who went poking around his gas heater,
Touched a leak with his light;
He blew out of sight—
And, as everyone who knows anything about poetry can tell you, he also ruined the meter.

In this limerick, the author is playing with puns and alliteration to create a funny tongue-twister

A flea and a fly in a flue
Were caught, so what could they do?
Said the fly, "Let us flee"
"Let us fly," said the flea,
So they flew through a flaw in the flue.