



Creating Poetry

John Drury

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Poets can't impose their will on the muse. That's why it's so important that you write regularly, keep reworking your drafts, and experiment in your writing. This book will help you by offering advice, inspiration, and hundreds of exercises to get you going--all designed to invoke your muse.

With no bias toward any form or style, John Drury addresses imagery, metaphor, and the different methods of constructing and experimenting with new poetic forms. You'll find twelve chapters overflowing with examples, exercises, and prompts--all practical tools you can use right now in your poetry writing. For example, you'll find information on:

Preparing: developing your poetic sensitivity

Language: learning the fundamental tools of poetry and using them effectively

Sight: refining sight--and insight--to make your poetry come alive within the mind's eye--and the heart's eye, too

Sound: sensitizing yourself to the music of words--both singly and in combination

Movement: developing the rhythmic qualities that make poems sing--and shout, march, croon, and whisper

Voice: becoming aware of the fine nuances of how the words are said and connected, revealing each poem's implied speaker and "stance"

Finishing: bringing each poem to successful completion

No matter what your style or level of experience, *Creating Poetry* offers insightful, thoughtful, and motivating instruction all of which will make your path to poetry writing a richer path to travel.

Creating Poetry Details

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From Reader Review Creating Poetry for online ebook

Kevin Albrecht says

(Recommended in "Self-Editing for Fiction Writers" as having practical advice that helps writers see with a poet's eye.)

Gerry LaFemina says

I've been looking for a first-rate intro to poetry writing textbook for awhile, and this may fit the bill: it has tons of great exercises, lots of clear discussions about various aspects of poetry composition without bogging the book down with samples, requiring the reader to do the work of finding of poems to fit the bill.

Daniel Jr. says

Filled with expertise and very helpful writing exercises. I've had a lot of success with it in the classroom, though I only use excerpts.

David says

I got this book years ago thinking I was going to start writing poetry more seriously, but then I drifted into other forms instead and left this sitting on my shelf forever until I finally just decided to read it to think about poetry more seriously. From that standpoint it works perhaps better, though perhaps not. It's all over the place, which is both good and bad and ultimately I can't be sure which. I suppose the subject is so amorphous that there's no real way to have much more of a coherent approach than "let's think about this a bit," but it kept seemingly like it both worked and didn't. I do read more poetry than probably the average non-poet and there was much I found interesting, but also much I didn't. Perhaps this would be better as part of a regular poetry practice, though perhaps not. I'm just kind of not sure.

Scott Whitney says

I have been reading this to help me with my Creative Writing class. This has been a really good book for ideas on poetry writing. There are many exercises and a lot of good information to help.

Marty says

Good read if you enjoy writing poetry

Lee Johnson says

VERY DISAPPOINTING The two themes of this entry level book are definitions and prompts for writers block. Even those areas fall short. Ex: To define a "song" he offers only the Elizabethan definition and example from the 1500s. A few songs have been written since then. For prompts, one of them is to "look out the window." The title is an oxymoron in that neither theme creates poetry.

K Anderson says

A cool one to look at if you are interested in learning about poetry or how to write it..

Robin Yaklin says

A serious poets book

Quinn says

A thorough, well-written book on how to dissect, understand and write poetry. Textbook approach. Serious, focused. Chapters include Preparing (developing your poetic sensibility), Language, Sight, Sound, Movement, Shaping, Patterns/ Transitions, Vice, Sources of Inspiration, Things to Write About, Other Arts, Finishing.

Good research book, solid textbook for college-level classes. Well researched and organized. Not for the easy-going or faint of heart.

Mary Louise says

My favorite book and not just for writing poems! Check it out.

Andrea Blythe says

I picked up this book because someone in an Amazon review called Creating Poetry a "muse disguised as paper". It may not go that far, but it's close. This book is full of writing prompts, each focused on the chapter's subject, from Beginnings to Tone, Form, Research, Sound, Inspiration and more. There is plenty here for a poet to use and learn from, especially if they flip around from section to section, picking out prompts on an area of their writing they want to focus on. (I don't think the best use is to read it from cover to cover as I did).

Occasionally, I thought the prompts for a particular subject were too specific, however, Drury encourages you to use this book as a jumping off point. It's not necessary to follow the prompts to the letter, if the poem goes off in another direction.

This book is definitely worth a flip through to peruse and play with the prompts within.

Daudi Mlengela says

The book is awesome for those who are really in need of being great poets. I recommend this book for poetry teachers and amateur poets for the book provides all practical tools you can use to write poems. However, the book also gives lots of exercises which at the end of the day evokes your writing aspirations.

Robin Helweg-Larsen says

This is the kind of complete overview of subject matter that one expects from Writer's Digest Books. It covers every conceivable aspect of writing poetry with both explanation and demands for writing exercises, from how to find inspiration to technical details of meter and form.

It allows 'free verse' into the discussion - something that the best poets from Eliot to the present do not. But this can be forgiven because the thrust of the book is the explanation of the value and methods for writing within the constraints of formal verse.

The book dates from 1991, but is essentially timeless. It is aimed at the novice but is so complete that it is of at least passing interest even to published poets.

The real pity is that students of writing should need the more basic portions. If they learned to recite poetry at home and at elementary school, they would have an understanding of verse that would allow them to be writing it regardless - and then this book would be appropriate for turning them into more accomplished poets.

Lisa McElroy says

Like taking a very good poetry class. You will understand and want to write poetry after you read most of this book. And if you do write some, it will be better than it was before you read this book.
