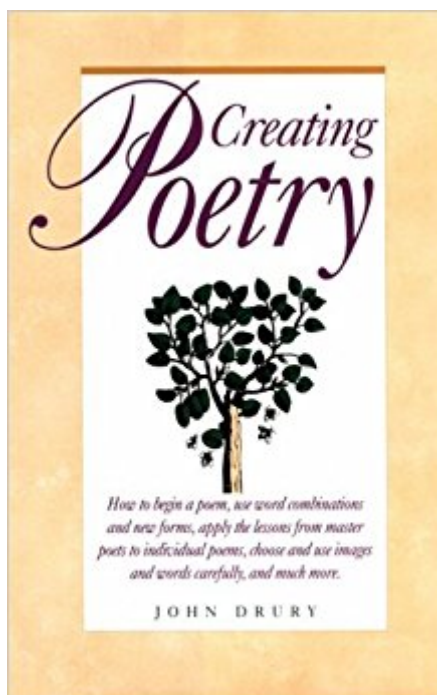


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# Creating Poetry



## Synopsis

Provides exercises and tips for writing poetry dealing with such issues as shaping the poem, developing rhythm, using appropriate language, determining what to write about, and finishing the piece.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 224 pages

Publisher: Writers Digest Books; 1st edition (May 15, 1991)

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## Customer Reviews

It helped me discover my true poetic nature (actually it was just for school, but still).

This book is an easy read, and easy to understand. Lots of information for a beginner

Very helpful in my pursuit of writing.

loved it

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 reality 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.

"The first line of any poem is a kind of door, an entrance into the rooms of the stanzas, an opening. There are many kinds of doors, some plain, some ornate..." ~John Drury

Creating Poetry is not a book, it is a muse disguised as pages of paper within a cover! I cannot express my appreciation enough for this beautiful gift. John Drury's wisdom and attention to detail is inspiring and the warmth with which he writes inspires you to write poem after poem. You can literally read this book and compose poems instantly as the inspiration flows through you. I was amazed at how Creating Poetry invoked the muse so effectively! Most of my poems appear as a singular thought or moment and then the first sentence will keep repeating itself until I start writing, then a poem flows through the pen. Reading this book, you need to keep paper and pen nearby because poems will appear as if called from a never-ending well of creativity.

"Some poets do depend on a flash of inspiration, maybe a good first line, before they sit down to work...waiting is their discipline. Like all poets, they are constantly preparing for the poems they will write." ~ John Drury

John Drury explores a wide variety of poetic forms and teaches poets how to develop style and feeling that will be conveyed to the reader and enhance the experience. For a long time I wrote poems without knowing what I was doing. In fact, my first book of poems appeared so spontaneously, I had no idea I could even write poems. One of the suggestions he gives in this book is to read lots of poems and to indulge in the experience of reading them frequently. I cannot agree more! He also talks about playing music while you write. These suggestions are all very helpful. Some of the brilliant ideas include thoughts on myths. You can put yourself into the story and write about yourself as a mythical creature or you could write a poem about a painting or sculpture. The main sections introduce you to:

- Developing your poetic sensitivity
- Learning the fundamental tools of poetry
- Refining sight - image, metaphor, symbols, vision
- Sensitizing yourself to the music of words - alliteration, assonance, rhyme, sound effects
- Developing the rhythmic qualities that make poems sing
- Understanding the basic units of which poems are made - visual shape, stanzas, lines
- Taking advantage of poetic forms - Ballad, Haiku, Ode, Villanelle, Song, Pantoum
- Becoming aware of fine nuances - tone, understatement, dramatic monologue
- Opening to potential sources - love, dreams, chance, thinking, memory, journals
- Things to write about - stories, people, occasions, modern life, objects, subjects
- Appreciation

for Life - history, science, music, myths, painting, photographs  
Bringing each poem to completion - revision, omissions, endings  
Reviewing poetry stirred my interest as I noticed similarities within the uniqueness of style. What was it that so captured me in some poems and drew me in deeper into a poet's world? How do poets create a connection of souls in just a few lines? Often what a poet needs is an idea and then the full experience appears. This book inspired me to write poems about love, silence, cinnamon, bookshelves, reviewing, bubble baths, candles, travel, eternity, hunger, dreams, music, friendship, autumn, wolves, castles, plum blossoms and even a poem about ships in a sea of emotion. Reading "Creating Poetry" will inspire you to the point where reading this book may in fact inspire you to write 50-70 poems! You can read a book and write your own book at the same time! I'm working on publishing the book this book inspired, but I keep writing more poems!  
Creating Poetry Creates Poets!~The Rebecca Review

There are a few books in my personal library which I have acquired without really knowing the exact reasons for my ultimate decisions at the point of purchase. It could be the spur of the moment. Or something just grabs me. I really don't know. This is one particular book (in fact, the only one of its genre, which I had bought) that fell under those impulses. But there is something I am very sure of & that is, I am often fascinated by people who write literature, plays & poems, as well as the aesthetics of their creative work. I once heard this story from a government minister: "Math & Science give you the capability to build a gun. Literature & Poetry help you make the decision when to use it." Nevertheless, I took the trouble to read - & reread - this book on how to begin a poem. Through the hundreds of practical exercises to get going, I even invoked my muse & wrote a few short poems along the way. Not the best, but not bad for a beginner after all! Personally, I really appreciate the author's constant encouragement: explore, practise, open yourself to all the potential sources of poetry - all around you & within you. I also like his beautiful presentation through twelve thematic chapters (each a self-contained unit), to name a few as follows:- Preparing: developing your poetic sensitivity;- Language: learning the fundamental tools of poetry & using them effectively;- Sight: refining sight & insight to make your poetry come alive within the mind's eye...& the heart's eye, too;- Sound: sensitizing yourself to the music of words - both singly & in combination;- Movement: developing the rhythmic qualities that make poems sing...& shout, march, croon & whisper;- Voice: becoming aware of the fine nuances of how the words are said & connected, revealing each poem's implied speaker & "stance"

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