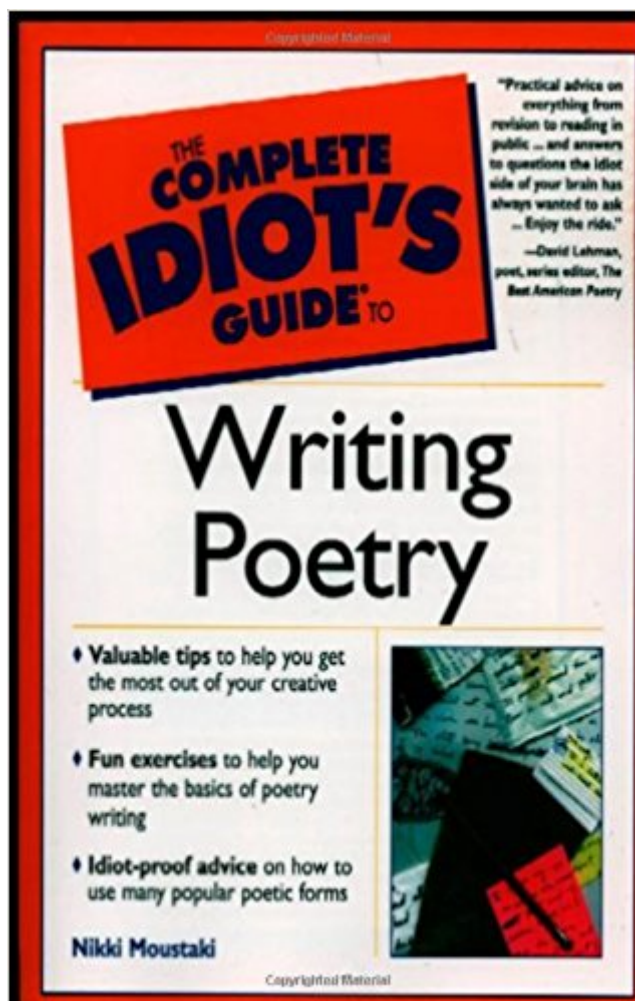


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# Complete Idiot's Guide To Writing Poetry



## Synopsis

Discover the poet within! You've read poetry that has touched your heart, and you'd like to improve your own writing technique. But even though you have loads of inspiration, you're discovering that good instruction can be as elusive as a good metaphor. The Complete Idiot's Guide to Writing Poetry will help you compose powerful, emotion-packed poems that you can be proud of. You'll learn simple explanations of poetry building blocks such as metaphor, imagery, symbolism and stanzas; steps to the poetic process; easy-to-follow guidelines for writing sonnets, sestinas, narrative poems and more; fun exercises to help you master the basics of poetry writing; cliches and other poetry pitfalls to avoid; advice on writers' conferences and workshops; tips on getting your poetry published; good poems that will inspire your own work; strategies to beat writer's block.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Remember the excitement of writing that first haiku in fourth grade, how proud you were of counting those syllables, 5-7-5, and having the poem come out just right? I do. I also remember writing a term paper on the poet Robert Frost in 11th grade &#x96; I fell in love with his language and found myself intrigued with his tragic history. I&#x92;ve been hooked on poetry ever since. I&#x92;ve made it a big part of my life. If you&#x92;re reading this letter, chances are that you share a similar feeling. Once it gets into you, poetry has a way of staying put. Poetry is an art whose fans and critics are also practitioners as well. Rarely does a fan of classical music take up composing, or an

art critic take up sculpting. But poetry is special. You can practice it anywhere &#x96; at home, work, in prison, on a deserted island &#x96; provided you have a pencil and a scrap of paper. I believe that beginners first come to poetry as an art partly because they already own the tools to make it. If you can read and write, chances are you also can pen a poem. But there&#x92;s a misconception that a pen and paper is all you need. A great poem takes more than just the ability to form legible words with a ballpoint. Much more. This book will take you through the skills you require to become a good poet. I can&#x92;t promise you greatness and fame, but I can promise you that you&#x92;ll learn the parts and pieces that make up a poem &#x96; the feeling and inspiration are between you and your muse. You&#x92;ll also get practical advice on journaling, revision, workshops, reading in public, poetry exercises, and the recognition most poets desire &#x96; publishing. Are you going to find everything you need to know about poetry here? Well, no. But you&#x92;ll find more than a start &#x96; this book will take you far beyond novice status if you practice along with the exercises and suggestions &#x96; you may even find some great successes along the way.

Discover the poet within! You&#x92;re no idiot, of course. You&#x92;ve read poetry that has touched your heart, and you&#x92;d like to improve your own writing technique. But even though you have loads of inspiration, you&#x92;re discovering that good instruction can be as elusive as a good metaphor&#x85; Don&#x92;t let your muse leave you! With loads of smart advice and helpful exercises, *The Complete Idiot&#x92;s Guide to Writing Poetry* will help you compose powerful, emotion-packed poems that you can be proud of. In this *Complete Idiot&#x92;s Guide*, you get: Simple explanations of the building blocks of poetry metaphor, imagery, symbolism, stanzas and more. A step-by-step guide to the poetic process&#x97;from your first inspiration to your poem&#x92;s last stanza. Easy-to-follow guidelines for writing sonnets, sestinas, narrative poems, and more! Straightforward descriptions of getting the most out of your creative process Fun exercises to help you master the basics of poetry writing Idiot-proof advice on how to use many popular poetic forms You&#x92;ll also learn how to&#x85; Write poems full of powerful imagery. Decide whether or not to use rhyme in your poems. Avoid clich&#x92;s and other poetry pitfalls. Revise your writing. Start a reading series&#x97;or a poetry slam. Get the most out of a writers&#x92; conference. Start a workshop. Get your poems published. Beat writers&#x92; block. Find good poems that will inspire your own work. Read your own poetry aloud.

I hadn't written poetry for years. "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Writing Poetry" made me realise

how much more there is to poetry. From the types of rhyme available to the lexical tools used by poets to convey their poem's meaning with word, sound (cacophonous vs harmonious), visual appearance of words on the page, syllable counts and so on. I bought this book based upon the reviews of other customers and wasn't disappointed. This book delivers and demonstrates the craft of poetry as a labour of love. I do recommend in conjunction with this book "Poemcrazy: Freeing Your Life with Words" by Susan G. Wooldridge. I used the latter book's techniques to bring out my innermost creativity, thoughts and sentiments. These two books together are a winning team :-)

Very good book in understanding, reading and writing poetry. I say it helps with understanding and reading poetry because this explains, for instance, why different poems are structured differently. Some rhyme, others do not. It explains what a good poem contains: imagery, metaphor... It teaches you about different poems out there: an aubade, a sonnet, a haiku, etc. There are also many exercises. Good book, very good purchase. I also like *The Everything Writing Poetry Book: A Practical Guide To Style, Structure, Form, And Expression* (Everything: Language and Literature)

I thought it would be a small book, but it is better for its size. Worth it.

Idiot guides are great, they make things so much easier to learn!

This is a very good book for somebody who hasn't had college classes or specialized classes in poetry, somebody who wants to learn the basics and be encouraged to write. I like the way this book is organized and I like the examples and suggested writings. I would recommend this book over "Poetry for Dummies," because this one isn't filled with truisms and isn't patronizing. The chapters are short, about 15 pages each, with a lot of white space (which is good) and interesting sidebars. The index is good and the list of suggested web sites is interesting. For beginners, or for somebody who once wrote poetry but hasn't for years and years, this is a good book full of useful information.

On page 261, there is a quote from the poet, Sylvia Plath: "nothing stinks like a pile of unpublished writing." This friendly introduction to writing poetry has everything--forms, writing and revision exercises, workshop and formal classroom advice, and some very humorous and helpful quotations from those who have been through the process. One's writing might still "stink," but this guide gives the novice poet a chance to give thought, coherence, and polish to those random scribblings. I'm a

retired public acquisitions librarian who started writing poems in his forties. I could have avoided spending a lot of money and saved a lot of room on my shelves had this book been available sooner. Just a cursory look shows that it accomplishes more in less space than anything else I have on my shelves, and I'm talking well over 30 volumes on how to write poems. The explanations are crystal clear and the advice is right on target. There are some wonderful textbooks such as Mary Kinzie's, "A Poet's Guide to Poetry" and Wallace & Boisseau's, "Writing Poems," but this book is perfect for the person who has no access or wants no access to formal classes or just wants to get his/her feet wet. A competitor to the "Idiot's" series has a look-a-like volume, "Poetry for Dummies," but that volume is more of an all-inclusive reference work with a major portion devoted to the history of and facts about poetry--nevertheless also a good introductory volume. For the aspiring poet with little or no exposure to poetry writing, this has to be the first choice.

This is a great read. If you want to learn about poetry. Then you need to get this book. I am a decent enough writer. But this book is taking me thru different avenues and ways of writing. Get the book. you won't be sorry.

If you've ever been curious about poetry and or wanted to brush up on poetry-this is a great purchase. It is very easy to understand and provides excellent examples. There are many exercises which allow one's creative juices to flow while also allowing for practice of the material you've just learned.

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