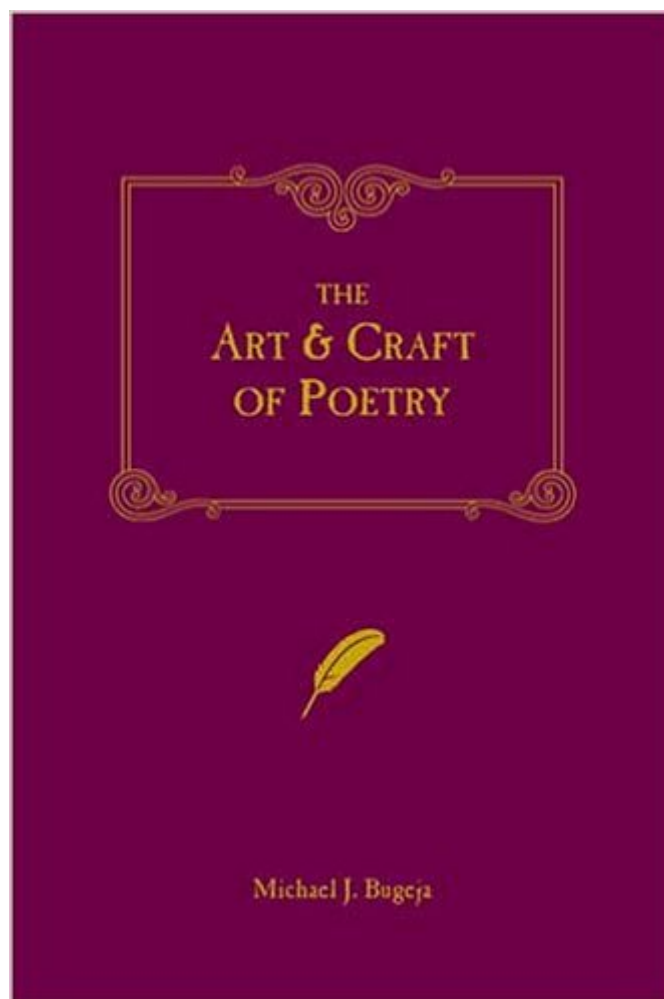


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# The Art And Craft Of Poetry



## Synopsis

With *The Art & Craft of Poetry*, poets will build their poetry-writing skills with help from past and contemporary masters - everything from generating ideas to examining the finished poem. They'll learn how to: Use journals to develop their observational skills and turn life experiences into ideas for poems. Master the tools of the trade - voice, line, stanza, title, metre and rhyme. Acquire fluency in a variety of poetry formats and forms, everything from narrative, lyric and dramatic verse (traditional formats) to fixed, free and sequence styles (traditional forms). Fine tune their work Exercises, assignments and sample work from more than 100 standout poets - everyone from Walt Whitman to Louise Gluck - ensure that every reader, whether poet, student or bibliophile, discovers just how extraordinary poetry can be.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I've read many books on writing poetry and Bugeja's *ART AND CRAFT OF POETRY* is the best among them. He offers the clearest explanations of how meter, line length, and rhyme influence tone and meaning in a poem. His section on forms is absolutely the most comprehensive, explaining how to make formal verse into GOOD poetry beyond simply following the technical rules. Suggestions include writing the envoi first in a sestina, shaping meaning in a pantoum, and how to make the repeating lines of a villanelle do multiple tasks. I agree with the reviewer who said she'd want this book if stranded on a island. I can't read more than a page without stopping to write and I know that I've produced several publishable poems. I also know what I can do to revise poems that I

knew didn't work, but wasn't sure how to fix them before reading this book. Excellent! I couldn't be more enthusiastic.

Sonnet, iambic pentameter, the villanelle. . . .and free form. How can a non-poet form reasonable and enjoyable poetry? This book is the answer especially if you appreciate poetry and want to learn some forms to test your ideas. This is the book. It's broken down into 3 sections. The first is a non-intimidating idea section which allows the reader to dip into his/her unconscious and come up with tons of ideas for poems and prose. You don't start off with a poem until the next two chapters where you take ideas from the idea file and utilize them. I mean, who knew how important a very effective title was to poetry, poets perhaps? The last chapter discusses the particular forms and how you can revise, yes you can revise, your poems to work into a form. This book's format was incredibly enjoyable. After reading it once, I had several poems that I was happy with. When I read it again, yes, this is definitely a book to read more than once, I will get more ambitious and focus on forms. This first time I just had fun. I can see why it is recommended by teachers for students. Or, like me, you can teach yourself.

If I were sent to an island to live alone and could bring only three things with me, they would be a gross of pens, a case of paper and *The Art and Craft of Poetry*. Michael immediately immerses the reader into the world of poetry. He starts at the beginning, with the issue most frustrating to beginning poets - What do I write about? By the end of Chapter 1 the reader is armed with enough ideas and resources to last several lifetimes. He then takes you on a brief but meaningful tour of poetry genres, complete with exercises. By the time you have completed these exercises you realize he has not only presented genres, but forms as well. He then discusses the forms of poetry in greater depth, both historic and contemporary. Even if you never plan to write a poem, this book will broaden your understanding and appreciation of this beloved and increasingly popular form of literature.

Michael Bugeja's book is geared toward writers of any caliber, especially those who do not appreciate scholarly approaches to poetry composition. This text is hands on and continues to be a best-seller after almost a decade because the instruction is based on effective teaching, rhymed and free verse approaches, and several levels of exercises at the end of each chapter. The work also comes with an extensive anthology exposing the reader to poetry from Shakespeare to the current era.

There's no getting around it. Michael Bugeja knows his stuff. This book is an incredibly thorough survey of the different types of poetry being published today, with many examples of each kind as well as general advice about the creation of such poems. I enjoyed the various exercises at the end of each chapter that allow you to continue using the book as you progress as a poet. The book is well written, straightforward and has made me a better poet.

This how-to-write poetry text is good to begin with and good to grow with. Each chapter is followed by a brief but diverse selection of poems that illustrate the principles discussed in the chapter. Suggested assignments are provided at levels one, two, and three so that students can work through the book three times at increasing levels of sophistication. My sophomore creative writing poetry students begin with this text.

Scriptwriters should also use this workbook since movie outlines can be thought of as long, free verse poetry. Readers can use the book three times through, since the exercises are different with every pass. Not a minor point, since reading books about writing is its own form of writer's block. I would recommend it for songwriters too, since it helps the writer focus on key turning points in life.

The Art and Craft of Poetry is an excellent book for both beginners and advanced writers of poetry and the exercises are geared for both. From how to generate ideas to crafting and writing poetry, this book is the one that I will use frequently as an educational tool.

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