



An Intro to Poetry

Peter Cantelon
www.cantelon.org



What are we going to cover...

We'll cover a lot (but not enough):

1. What is poetry?
2. A little history
3. Types of poems
4. How to...
5. Publishing/Submitting
6. Criticism/Rejection ☹️
7. Poets I admire



01

What is poetry

Almost anything you want it to be
(but not really)

Poetry

An unhelpful definition from Oxford: a collection of poems; poems in general
synonym verse, epic/lyric/pastoral, etc. poetry
Maya Angelou's poetry; a poetry reading



Poem

A more helpful definition from Oxford: a piece of writing in which the words are chosen for their sound and the images they suggest, not just for their obvious meanings. The words are arranged in separate lines, usually with a repeated rhythm, and often the lines rhyme at the end.





Poetry is the spontaneous
overflow of powerful feelings: it
takes its origin from emotion
recollected in tranquility.

- William Wordsworth



“

If I feel physically as if the top of
my head were taken off, I know
that is poetry.

- Emily Dickinson

”





Poetry is a way of taking life by
the throat.



- Robert Frost





The poet is a liar who always
speaks the truth.



- Jean Cocteau





The genesis of a poem for me is usually a cluster of words. The only good metaphor I can think of is a scientific one: dipping a thread into a supersaturated solution to induce crystal formation. I don't think I solve problems in my poetry; I think I uncover the problems.

- Margaret Atwood





Poetry lifts the veil from the hidden
beauty of the world, and makes
familiar objects be as if they were
not familiar.



– Percy Bysshe Shelley





I would define ... the poetry of
words as the rhythmical
creation of beauty.



- Edgar Allen Poe





It is a test that genuine poetry can
communicate before it is
understood.



- Dante Alighieri





Writing free verse is like playing
tennis with the net down.



– Robert Frost

OUCH!

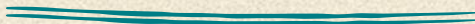




Poetry is what happens when
nothing else can.



- Charles Bukowski



**NO
PRESSURE**
😊



A good poem is a contribution to reality. The world is never the same once a good poem has been added to it. A good poem helps to change the shape of the universe, helps to extend everyone's knowledge of himself and the world around him.

- Dylan Thomas



“...that's the role of poetry,
to say what others cannot.”

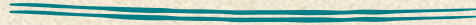
- The Poet Dandelion (Andrzej Sapkowski)



Poetry is fear overcome.



- Peter Cantelon





02

A Little History

HINT: How long have humans been sentient?

A Poetic Timeline

01

Pyramid of Unis

Invocation to New Life inscribed on the burial chamber in the pyramid of Unis. Egypt circa 4,300 (unattributed)

02

Enheduanna: Mother of poets

The earliest recorded poetry written by Sumerian high priestess of the goddess Inanna and the god Nanna in Ur about 4,200 years ago

03

Ramayana and Mahabharata

Indian Sanskrit epics written between 7th to 3rd century BCE which include the text of the Bhagavad Gita

Others: Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor (Egypt 2,500 BCE); Gilgamesh (Mesopotamia 1,800 BCE); Epic of Sundiata from West Africa (Date unknown)

A Poetic Timeline

Don't forget Sappho

Circa 600 BCE, Greek poet composed more than 10,000 lines famously known as the 10th muse.

04

Dante & John Donne The Divine Comedy & Paradise Lost

Italian epic poem completed in 1320. 14,233 lines; British epic poem completed in 1667, 10,000+ lines.

05

Modern Poetry

William Blake, Margaret Atwood, Leonard Cohen, Amanda Gorman, Kenji Miyazawa, Eminem, Shel Silverstein, Theodore Geisel, Robert Service, Shane Koyczan, Ted Hughes, Rupi Kaur & so many more



& SHAKESPEARE!

The Bard. 154 sonnets, plays and other poems; writing between 1585-1613 CE

03

Types of Poems



Poetic Types

Ekphrastic

Acrostic

Free Verse

Ode

Villanelle

Elegy

Sonnet

Rhymed

Blank Verse

Lyric

Ballad

Limerick

Epic

Haiku



04

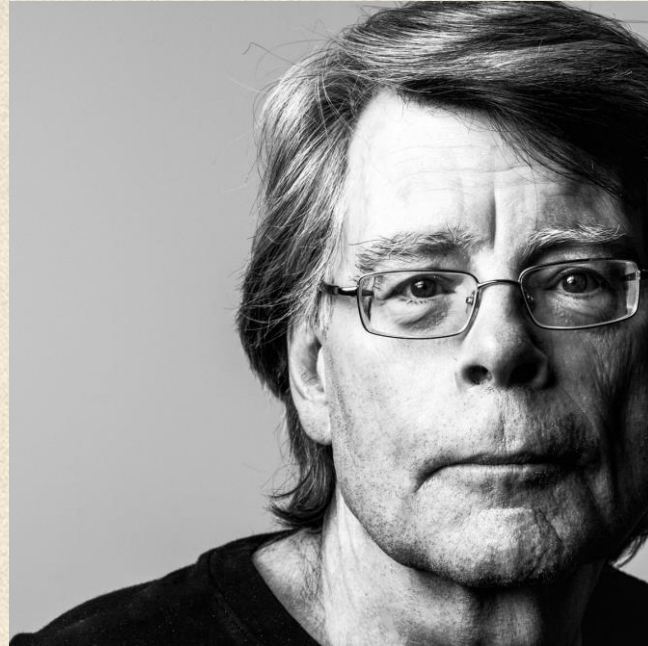
How to...





Advice from the most prolific and successful writer of the 20th century

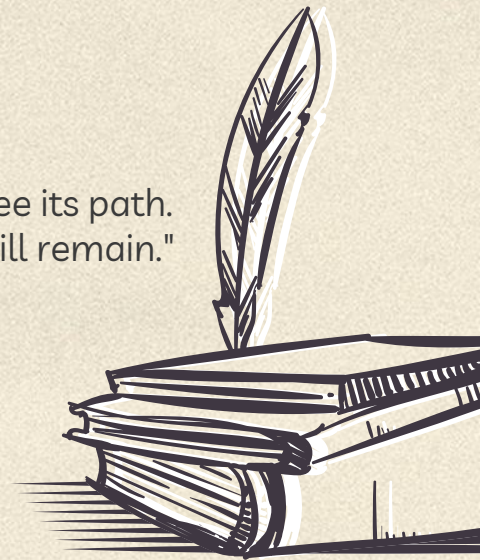
- Write for yourself, then the audience
- The magic is in you. *"I'm convinced that fear is at the root of most bad writing."*
- Read, read, read.
- You have three months (deadlines)
- Writer's write
- Find your inspiration (music, nature...)
- STOP. Make it easy: pen, paper, phone, laptop, PC, Start a blog etc.





Litany Against Fear

"I must not fear.
Fear is the mind-killer.
Fear is the little-death that brings total obliteration.
I will face my fear.
I will permit it to pass over me and through me.
And when it has gone past, I will turn the inner eye to see its path.
Where the fear has gone there will be nothing. Only I will remain."



05

Publishing/ Submitting





Statistics & the Odds

Appreciation of poetry (like most creative work) is subjective. Play the odds – the more you submit, the greater your chances.

Reach out...

Editors and publishers are happy to answer your questions. Just email.

Marketing

Know your market and let your market know you. Horror magazines won't publish your limerick.

Make Your Own Luck

Network and connect. Follow the Facebook groups and social media sites.

Right Place/Right Time

The most well known poets reflect their times.
See Bob Dylan.

Resources for Publishing

Facebook

www.facebook.com/groups/poeticallyinclined/
www.facebook.com/groups/thatpoetryplace/
www.facebook.com/p0etic1
www.facebook.com/groups/860877037424122 (No Fee Call)

Internet

www.newpages.com/classifieds/calls-for-submissions
trishhopkinson.com/2021/05/07/30-international-lit-mags-seeking-english-no-fee-submissions-of-poetry-prose-and-art/

!!! Try International !!!

06

Criticism & Rejection



**“Your baby is
ugly and your
ugly too!”**



Poets I Admire

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, William Wordsworth, Percy Shelley, John Donne, Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, Leonard Cohen, Kenji Miyazawa, Forough Farrokhzad, Sappho, Irving Layton, Emily Dickenson, Morrissey, Margaret Atwood, William Blake, John Keats, Emily Browning, Robert Browning, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Ezra Pound, Charles Bukowski, Dante, Dylan Thomas, Lord Byron, Shel Silverstein, Amanda Gorman



An Encouragement

“It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out your door. You step onto the road, and if you don't keep your feet, there's no knowing where you might be swept off to.”

- Gandalf to Frodo, The Lord of the Rings by J.R.R. Tolkien



Thanks

Do you have any questions?

cantelon@gmail.com

Download the presentation at:

www.Cantelon.org

