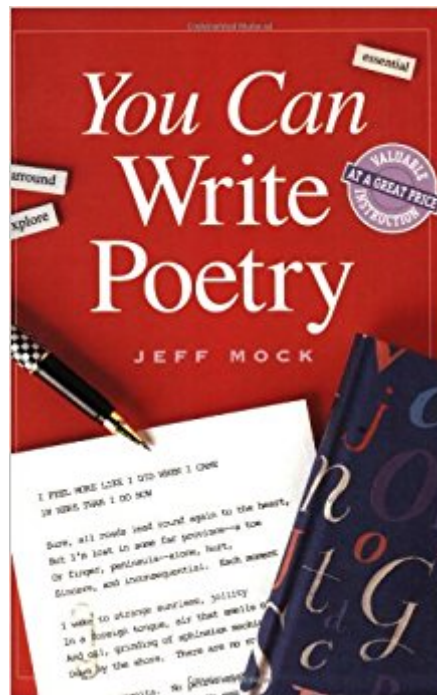


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# You Can Write Poetry (You Can Write It!)



## Synopsis

Poetry's forms, styles and structures are illustrated through the work of Shakespeare, e.e. cummings, Tim Geiger and others. These poems, and dozens of hands on practice sessions, will inspire readers to experiment with language, and write poetry.'

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I have always loved poetry but stayed away from any attempt to write poetry until my late 20s. When I discovered writing poetry is available to anyone who applies themselves I fell in love with this art form. Even though I graduated from college I had never taken any formal poetry writing courses. For many years I did belong to a writer's group and learned a lot of important tips from them. After years of reading all kinds of poetry books I finally began to write poetry. I eventually had three poetry books published (Season of the Warrior, Haiku Moments, The Samurai Soul) but I am always searching to increase my creative skills and knowledge. I recently found this book (["You Can write poetry"](#) by Jeff Mock) and read it cover to cover. I wish I had read this book when it first came out. It is simply fantastic. This wonderful text is organized into eleven chapters. They include the following: Why write, sharpening the pencil, an aside: on reading poetry, the art of poetry part one, on the fussy details, the art of poetry part two, looking out the window & looking in, forms & free verse, on work, luck & other acts of imagination, the first draft, rejection & awards. The glossary is also essential to study and read. Keep in mind that

this is more of a workbook and you should do the writing exercises to get the most out of this book. I love it and if you love reading and writing poetry this is a must have book for your personal library. Even though I have attempted to write various types of poetry my favorite poetry form is Japanese Haiku. Rating: 5 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: The Samurai Soul: An old warrior's poetic tribute)

"You Can Write Poetry" is very good at breaking down the technical structures comprising poems including definitions, examples, along with practice exercises. Included are meters, foot, stanzas, verses, rhymes, sounds, figures of speech, sonnets and ballads. Summed up, writing poems is a craft which involves lots of time writing and reading poems. The book provides a glossary of terms used and is an excellent reference. In fact, I think the glossary is a handy checklist for any aspiring poetry writer to use when revising a poem. The book emphasizes that poems aren't about truth. They are about exploration and imagination which we use to understand everyday complexities and complications, referring to Einstein saying "imagination is more important than knowledge," so forget truth and see where your imagination leads. Overall, a good book to read and keep around for reference.

Mock's book qualifies as a great achievement, not only as a guide to writing poetry, but also as a guide to studying poetry. The study of poetry in the 21st century faces many of the same obstacles as the study of jazz. (My authority to make this comparison derives from my continuing status as an obscure but perseverant practitioner of both arts.) In both instances, the linear path from orthodoxy to chaos was exploded almost two generations ago, leaving massive quantities of scattered debris and a vague longing for some unique recipe affirming the "warm-fuzzy" attributes of structure without the "over-controlling" implications of externally curtailed freedom. Mock seems to have arrived at just such a recipe, offering structures less as imperatives and more as menu offerings while gently encouraging reader/followers to learn the rules in order to confer more credibility on any later decisions to break them. Anyone familiar with the building blocks of poetry will quickly observe that Mock offers "nothing new" to their inventory. Instead, Mock has developed a highly useful method - and sequence - of introducing them. The exercises in the first two chapters are particularly well conceived. More experienced poets will find them useful as vehicles for climbing out of a rut and flushing out new sources of ideas. The later exercises flow easily from this earlier foundation until - lo and behold - verses emerge. As with meditation and sex, smart novices will benefit from disciplining themselves to view experiences with rigorous disjunctive independence rather than

lapsing into tedious "not as good as last time" lamentations. But again, this book's audience should not be limited to individuals seeking to write poetry. Instead, it should serve as a companion volume for any undergraduate survey of poetic literature. How better to equip potential future audiences with the tools necessary to navigate their own investigation of works that span the distance from bards to beats and beyond? The discussion of rhythms, arguably the "music" of poetry, is particularly interesting. (As a jazz pianist, I amuse myself with inquiries that view the ageless "iamb" as a precursor to "swing." Perhaps a more detailed consideration of this concept will reward some starving academic with tenure and a raise in salary - but I digress . . .). That Mr. (Dr.?) Mock hails from Southern Connecticut State University (formerly "Southern Connecticut Teacher's College", the venerable spawning ground for so many of those patient souls who suffered with me as a student during my "school years" along the Connecticut shore) is another positive aspect of this book for me.

I have to admit that I am a bit skeptical about a book series such as this one and about a book with a title like this. Could it really be that simple? YES. Jeff Mock's book provides the perfect blend of anecdote, writing samples, exercises, advice, and knowledge to help anyone begin to write poetry. While Jeff Mock seems to be highly intelligent, his text is accessible even for the beginning poetry writer. His poems are excellent. I like that he made poetry terminology understandable. His exercises have resulted in many, many poems. Thanks, Jeff Mock!!

Like any good book on writing poetry, this one is worth reading more than once. The advice is good. The teaching is good (particularly on the sounds of poetry). The reproduced poems are excellent examples of the craft and art of poetry. Even the suggested activities/exercises are pretty good. (I'm not a fan of writing exercises.) Recommended, for sure.

I read many books on writing poetry. I picked this up at the same time I did 6 others. While I read this book I ended up writing a dozen poems before I had finished reading it. I have read the others and wrote very few poems in comparison to this one book. I am planning on reading this book again in 2001 I may very well end up writing another dozen poems.

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