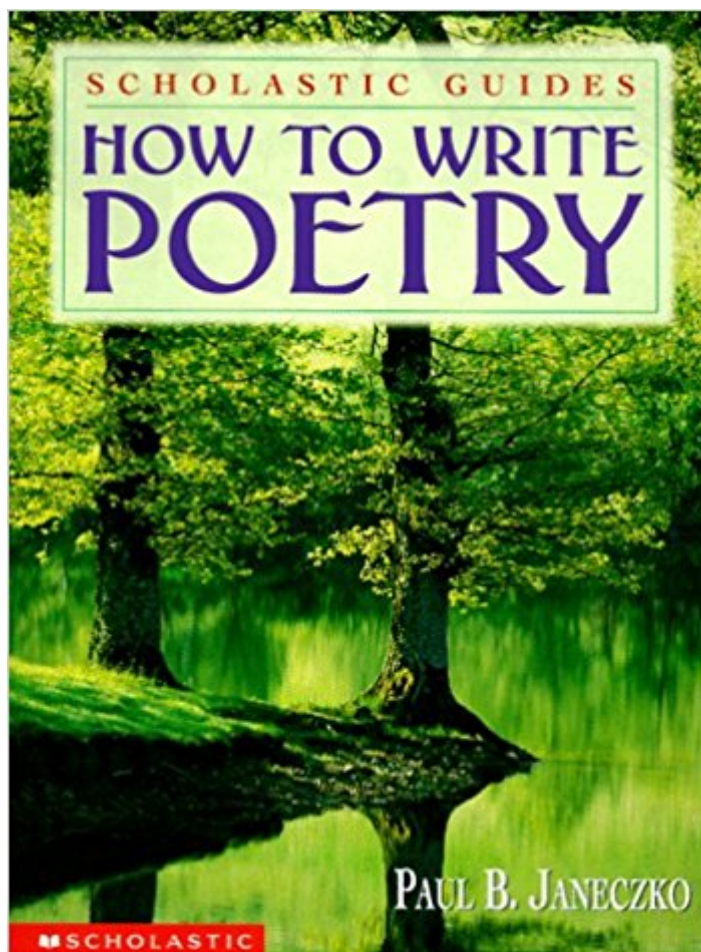


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# How To Write Poetry (Scholastic Guides)



## Synopsis

Award-winning poet Paul B. Janeczko shares advice and instructions for writing poetry--from keeping a journal to developing an actual poem. The book also includes a detailed glossary of poetry terms and a bibliography of great poetry books.

## Book Information

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Composition & Creative Writing

## Customer Reviews

Who says you can't teach someone how to write poetry? Paul B. Janeczko's thoughtful, clearly organized guide provides a terrific starting point for anyone who has ever dreamed of putting pen to paper to express a thought or feeling. Janeczko covers a range of techniques to help young poets create magic with words. In chapters titled "Getting Ready," "Starting to Write," "Writing Poems that Rhyme," "Writing Free Verse Poems," and "When Your Poem Is Finished," readers will pick up tips on keeping journals, paying attention to "sound effects," revising, understanding figurative language, and submitting poems to publishers. They'll also learn to avoid such pitfalls as assuming you'll remember a brilliant idea (write it down!), not getting hung up on neatness or spelling, and keeping in mind that lots of people try to get published--not everyone will be. Special features include writing exercises, tips from poets, and bibliographical information. There's also a checklist of good poetry books and a glossary. Janeczko's enthusiasm and skill is reflected in this enjoyable, straightforward guide. As he says, "It's all done with words. No high-tech special effects. No computer-enhanced remastered sound. No trick photography. Words. Those things we've used since we were babies. And when you sit down to write a poem, you have the power of the words at your fingertips." For

more fun with poetry, try Janeczko's Favorite Poetry Lessons. (Ages 9 and older) --Emilie Coulter  
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 5-8-In this practical and inspiring guide, Janeczko leads would-be poets through the writing process by beginning with the basics: looking for ideas, keeping a journal, and reading all types of poems. The next step is to start writing some simple poems to get used to the sounds words make when they are put together. The author suggests acrostic poems or short rhyming pieces such as synonym poems or clerihews (short rhymes about celebrities). Finally, writers are encouraged to move on to more advanced forms of free verse, including list poems, persona poems, and narrative poems. Interspersed throughout the text are tips from well-known poets, numerous examples, and writing exercises. Janeczko explains the writing techniques so well that young people will be tempted to pick up a pen and create some of their own work. The text is never intimidating; the tone is encouraging and supportive of taking risks with writing. An excellent glossary and "A Checklist of Good Poetry Books" are appended and the crisp, clear design is appealing. This book will be useful for students who are faced with poetry writing assignments but most especially for those who just want to explore the topic for their own pleasure. Kristen Oravec, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Strongsville, OH Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Great! It breaks down the type of poetry and how to compose it. I read the book in two days at a slow pace.

This is a fun and useful book on how to write poetry, written for children by a Children's Poet Laureate. At all times the advice and examples are warm and friendly and encouraging to children (and anybody else reading this book!). Janeczko has a way of focusing on what children are thinking and how they feel and what they observe, and most of his examples touch on their thoughts, feelings, and observations. The organization of this book is simple and friendly. I like how the author begins with Getting Ready: maybe a very important topic to a child who doesn't know how to get ready to write poetry. From there the author introduces the poetry forms that, to me, seem easiest for children to write: namely, acrostic poems, synonym poems, and opposites poems. This book has five chapters, each consisting of very short segments. The fourth chapter is titled "Writing Free Verse Poems," and it introduces word choice, poems of direct address, figurative language, and persona poems, among others. A very worthwhile purchase for anybody who works with children and poetry.

I wanted more from a scholastic guide. Perhaps more hands on how to instructions

I teach Language Arts to fourth and fifth grade students. They are very intimidated when poetry is mentioned, especially writing poetry. This book makes writing poetry very practical and interesting, even for boys. It took some of the fear factor out of teaching poetry as well.

This is THE book to start with at any age if you don't know much about poetry. Other books can be overwhelming. This book, if you do the exercises, is a nice simple step at approaching the subject. It makes poetry available to everyone. You can tell the writer loves poetry and loves teaching. I will look to this author for more. My students will love this approach to poetry.

On time and as described. I am very satisfied.

I had a student that was struggling to write poetry. I purchased this book for her. She left town and I do not know how much she gained from it. I personally felt it was helpful for beginning writers.

I have used this book for years, and I have owned three copies. It's excellent for younger children and has also been a valuable resource in my high school English and reading classes.

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