**Good Poetry?**

Poetry is a careful, inventive, or creative consideration of words written in order to convey some idea as a literary composition. Usually, but not always, the words written are designed to evoke emotion. Poetry can manifest itself as a two-word phrase or a one thousand-page book.

**What is Good Poetry or What Makes Good Poetry?**

Well, I may be opening a can of worms,… oh!…forgive me…too trite. Let me start again. Well, I may segregate virgin wisdom by saying this…hmm…not bad…“breach Watergate’s doors”…I have not heard that before…Anyway, defining “good poetry” has always been problematic and debatable. I could write a novel...wait, there I go again...I could tile the ocean floors on this topic; however, I believe a bulleted list is more serviceable. While meaningful poetry is in the eye of the beholder, the below list provides some basic principles of poetry.

**Poetic Principles**

* There is no formula. There is no prescribed guideline for the creation of poetry, only the inspiring models of existing poems.
* Be a critic and reader of poetry.
* There's nothing wrong with rhyming, however if you rhyme the words *“love you”*and *“blue”* you will be immediately expelled to the Poetic Catacombs of Disregard.
* Avoid pedestrian phrases. Saying *"I love you more than words can express,"* is neither unique nor is it your own.
* Use fresh imagery. Show the reader something in such a way, as he or she has not considered before. To say,*"my heart withered like a dying rose,"* offers nothing new.
* DO NOT WRITE IN ALL CAPS.
* Consider poetic presentation. No words should loiter extraneously. No punctuation intrudes pointlessly.
* Consider the measured arrangement of your words: the meter, rhythm, flow, vibe, beat, or pulse.
* Use the correct word/phrase. Enhance your vocabulary. A good vocabulary, gained through reading good poetry, prose, dictionary, and Synonym Finder enhances poetic expression. (Personally, I love archaic words)
* Write to be unraveled. Write in language that uses images, ironies, metaphors and analogies. Write in language meant to be unraveled.
* Don't ignore traditional [poetic forms](https://www.poetrysoup.com/poems/types/): Ballad, Haiku, and Couplet, etc.
* Emotion is not enough. Writing down raw emotions, simply because they are genuine, does not qualify them as "good" poetry. Oscar Wilde put it best when he said,*"All bad poetry springs from genuine feeling."*Conversely, all good poetry springs from genuine feeling. So, write with emotion AND in a language that uses metaphors, ironies, and analogies.
* Write to be funny. Poetry does not have to be serious or emotional.
* Good poetry makes you feel something. It will give you goose bumps, make you cry, chuckle, or put in high spirits.
* Edit, proof, and revise your poem. Perform the basics like spell and grammar check - if poetic liberties are not taken. Few artists are ever satisfied with their work. Never feel so attached to your own words that they are above revision. Allow it to grow.
* Write for others, not just yourself.
* Write about anything…anything, because ultimately people have different tastes and meaningful poetry is in the eye of the beholder!