



Poetry: The Basics

By Jeffrey Wainwright

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Now in its second edition, *Poetry: The Basics* demystifies the traditions and forms of the world of poetry for all those who find it daunting or bewildering. Covering a wide range of poetic voices from Chaucer to children's rhymes, song lyrics and the words of contemporary poets, this book will help readers to appreciate poetry by examining:

- technical aspects such as rhythm and measures
- different tones of voice in poetry
- the relationship between 'everyday' and 'poetic' language
- how different types of poetry are structured
- how the form and 'space' of a poem contribute to its meaning
- some of the ways contemporary poets set to work.

A must-read for all those wishing to get to grips with reading and writing poetry, this book is a lively and inspiring introduction to its many styles and purposes right up to the present-day.

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Editorial Review

Review

This is a creative and inspiring handbook. It shows the reader how to appreciate poetry and how to compose it, ready to reclaim for it some degree of specialness in language and to make that accessible.

—**Bernard O'Donoghue, winner of the Whitbread Prize for Poetry, 1995**

Welcoming, entertaining and, incidentally, wonderfully instructive. Jeffrey Wainwright writes with authority, understanding and deep pleasure about the art that most matters to him: how it is made, what it is made out of, and how readers can make the most of it.

—**Michael Schmidt, Editor of PN review**

About the Author

Jeffrey Wainwright is a poet, translator, and critic. He taught for many years at Manchester Metropolitan University where he was Professor in the Department of English until 2008.

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Andrew Blanton:

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