

Tools of the Poet - Practice Page

Exercise 1: Defining Purpose(s) guide your choice of tools & forms

➤ *Take 2 minutes to write down some of the reasons you write or want to write poetry.*

Exercise 2: Idea Generation is easier than you might expect

- ☺ You don't need a serious subject or a fancy idea for a poem.
- ☺ The creative act of writing stimulates the imagination.
- ☺ You may find that although you start a poem in one place or frame of mind, that it goes off to another place entirely. You may have the seeds of two or more poems.
- ☺ Be willing to experiment. Write about the same topic in various poetic forms.

➤ Let's practice. *Name some common things*, like bubble gum or tea bags.

➤ *Now list three things you could say about it*, such as bubble gum is chewy and makes bubbles and gets put into strange places sometimes. _____

See? **Ideas are all around you** – and *you have observations* to make about them.

Exercise 3: Point of View is essential in selecting tools to clue readers in

1. Poems can be written about a place or your memories of an event.

➤ *List some events* about which you have vivid memories. Example: 9-11-2001 events.

2. Poems may also be used to make a statement about ideas, philosophies, concerns

➤ *List some values* about which you have strong feelings. Example: lost or found love.

3. Study your poem ideas and select primary and secondary poetic forms for best expression.

➤ Select a poem idea and ***list forms to aid interpretation***. Example: sonnet, limerick.

4. The more you write, the better you become at expressing thoughts through poetry.

➤ Take your selected poem idea and ***write it in at least 2 forms of poetry***.

Editing and Revising will improve your poem.

- 1. Read your poem aloud.
- 2. Look at the patterns, figures of speech, and imagery in your poem.
- 3. Now, feel the poem—imagine someone else reading your poem for the first time.

Presentation Quotation’s Endnotes

- ¹ Louis Untermeyer, *The Pursuit of Poetry*, Simon and Schuster: New York, 1967.
- ¹ John Hall Wheelock, *What Is Poetry?*, Charles Scribner’s Sons: New York, 1963.
- ¹ T. S. Eliot, *On Poetry and Poets*, Farrer, Straus and Cudody: New York, 1957.
- ¹ Louis Untermeyer, *The Pursuit of Poetry*, Simon and Schuster: New York, 1967.
- ¹ Joy N. Hulme and Donna W. Guthrie, *How to Write, Recite, and Delight In All Kinds of Poetry*, The Millbrook Press: Brookfield, CT, 1991.
- ¹ Peter Sears, *Gonna Bake Me A Rainbow Poem*, Scholastic, Inc: New York, 1990.