



Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry: How to Write a Poem

By Jack Prelutsky

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Have you ever tried to write a poem about a pizza? How about a pig? How about a pigeon, penguin, potato, Ping-Pong, parrot, puppy, pelican, porcupine, pie, pachyderm, or your parents?

Jack Prelutsky has written more than a thousand poems about all of these things—and many others. In this book he gives you the inside scoop on writing poetry and shows you how you can turn your own experiences and stories about your family, your pets, and your friends into poems. He offers tips, advice, and secrets about writing and provides some fun exercises to help you get started (or unstuck). You'll also get a behind-the-scenes look at the ingredients of some of his most popular poems. If you are a poet, want to be a poet, or if you have to write a poem for homework and you just need some help, this is the book for you!

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Pizza, Pigs, and Poetry: How to Write a Poem By Jack Prelutsky Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #193449 in Books
- Brand: Greenwillow Books
- Published on: 2008-02-26
- Released on: 2008-02-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.63" h x .42" w x 5.13" l, .29 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 3–6—In this engaging book, the popular and prolific Prelutsky relates personal anecdotes and then shows how he created poems from them, in most cases by using comic exaggeration to suit his artistic purposes. Some are from his childhood, like "My Mother Says I'm Sickening," which grew out of playing with his food at the dinner table. ("My mother says I'm sickening/My mother says I'm crude/She says this when she sees me/Playing Ping-Pong with my food.") Others are more recent. Something as simple as buying a banana from a street vendor led to "I'm Building a Bridge of Bananas." Also included are plenty of writing tips, with practical, lively suggestions ideal for the target age group. Prelutsky repeatedly advises readers to keep a notebook and write down every idea, to give ideas time to percolate, to rewrite, and to have fun. Even when defining poetic terms, he is humorous and conversational: "Poetic license is my favorite license," he claims, before going on to offer a simple and understandable definition. The book concludes with a list of "Poemstarts to Get You Started." A good addition for public, school, and classroom libraries.—*Lauralyn Persson, Wilmette Public Library, IL*

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From [Booklist](#)

Along with easy-to-follow tips for creating verse, haiku, and concrete poetry, the reigning Children's Poet Laureate offers insights into his own thought processes ("Different foods behave in different ways when you squeeze them."), glimpses of his childhood, and personal anecdotes. Appropriately, his brief closing glossary of poet's tools includes entries for poetic license, pun, and irony. To get the creative juices flowing in budding versifiers, Prelutsky tucks in more than a dozen examples from his own work, plus 10 two-and-part-of-a-third-line "poemstarts." Although Ralph J. Fletcher's *Poetry Matters: Writing a Poem from the Inside Out* (2002) is a more wide-ranging guide to poetic techniques and forms, Prelutsky's amiable primer will be more appealing to less-motivated audiences; it will not only entice them into making poetry but also leave them better able to appreciate rhyme and wordplay in general. Grades 4-6. --John Peters

About the Author

Jack Prelutsky is the best-selling author of more than fifty books of poetry, including *The New Kid on the Block*, illustrated by James Stevenson, and *Stardines Swim High Across the Sky*, illustrated by Carin Berger. Jack Prelutsky lives in Washington State.

Users Review

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