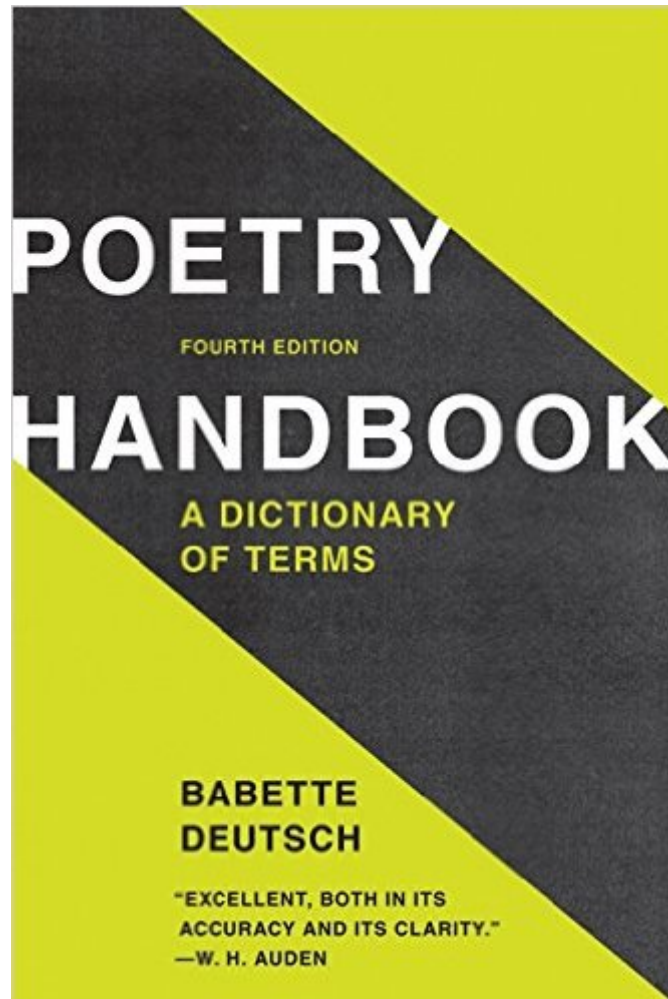


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Poetry Handbook: A Dictionary Of Terms



Synopsis

The classic reference work "an invaluable sourcebook for poets and readers"

Book Information

Paperback: 224 pages

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Customer Reviews

I have to confess that I haven't read this edition of the Poetry Handbook, but I still have the 1962 edition I had to buy in high school -- battered and rebound, but still highly useful. Whereas books like the Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics are wonderful for those already familiar with the subject and looking to deepen their knowledge, Babette Deutsch's dictionary of terms is perfect for those students whose experience of poetry is limited to Hallmark cards and whose understanding of poetics is nil. Having just discovered that the book is still in print and now in its fourth edition, and, better yet, available through [Amazon](#), I will recommend it to all my Freshman Comp II students (and, for that matter, to my literature students) as an approachable and useful starting point for the study of poetry.

This little book is useful for students and practicing poets. It is arranged alphabetically, and contains listings for everything concerned with poetry in English, but doesn't forget the influence of poems from other cultures on English poetry. Poets quoted to demonstrate or illustrate the item under discussion range from classical to modern, from seventh century Japanese to Navajo. The author cross-references a lot, perhaps a bit much; but in this one little book, you can find the true definition of haiku (not only the line and syllable requirements, but the necessity to "rouse the emotion and

suggest a spiritual insight", something often overlooked in definitions of the form; a discussion of "fancy", distinguishing it from fantasy and further distinguishing the latter from phantasy; and a definition of the "Monk's Tale Stanza" within a larger discussion of stanza. (This is where the cross-referencing is actually quite helpful). I lost my copy of this book for a while and was quite distraught. While I wouldn't go so far as to say I couldn't write without it, doing so was like eating a fine meal alone. I missed a dear friend at the table.

I am excited about this book, because after a time away from the university, and all the creative writing classes I have taken, one tends to start forgetting things, especially once you've seen 60-years-old pass you by. So this book was a Ace for this poet, and I'm mighty thankful to have it.

Five stars! This Poetry Handbook is certainly a MUST, for anyone who loves to write poetry, from the beginner to the award winners of writing poetry. This book is a great way to find the differences in the terms of poetry, when you write. I would certainly be completely lost without my copy of the Poetry Handbook, A dictionary of terms. A Recommendation to one and all.

I had a copy of this in college and over the years it has vanished. This is a replacement copy for one of the best books on writing poetry that I know of!

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