Contents

Acknowledgements vii

Introduction viii

PART ONE **The significance of poetry**

1 To begin with: common features and uncouth rhymes 3
2 Significance beyond plain speaking 11
3 Procedures for interpretation: reference and representation 16
4 Dissociation from context: the poem on the page 26
5 Verbal patterning and the grammar of representation 32
6 Time and place in a different dimension 39
7 Other patterns, alternative realities 45
8 Parallel lines and parallel texts 50
9 Intertextual associations 55
10 Aesthetic effects and relative values 61
11 So the meaning escapes . . . 67
12 In summary 71

PART TWO **The teaching of poetry**

1 The point of poetry 74
2 Educational relevance; recreation and language awareness 77
3 Pedagogic approaches; against exegesis 86
4 Composing poetic text: line assembly 92
5 Completing poetic text: verse blanks 102
6 Intertextual comparison and the use of variants 108
7 Comparing poems with prose description 117
8 Deriving poems from prose description 127
9 Deriving and comparing poetic variants 136
10 Progressive derivation: composing interim versions 145
11 Using prose paraphrases 151
12 Comparing derived and authorized versions 155
13 Comparing different modes of poetic writing 166
14 In conclusion 179

Notes 182

Appendix 208

Bibliography 221

Index 225

Index of poets 229