

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.