

POEM ROMPING: Online Poetry Group

Hello! Thanks for your interest in this online poetry group, hosted by the Rural Oklahoma Museum of Poetry and facilitated by me, ROMP Director Shaun Perkins.

Here I will share a bit about what this group will entail so you can see if it is an experience you would like to have. It looks like a lot of information all at once, and it is! Yet, there are good reasons for it. Just bookmark this information somewhere or print it out, and you can refer to it whenever you need to.

This group is designed for people who want to write poetry and share it with others. It is not a workshop or a class, though you certainly can learn a lot here if you so desire.

I have over 30 years of experience facilitating writing groups, both in person and online, and I've learned what makes them work best for most people. With poetry being a uniquely personal form of writing, it's best to have some working guidelines for this group so that everyone gets what they want from the experience and feels included and valued.

This group is designed to offer motivation to write poetry and share it with others. Beyond that, you can also ask for feedback on what you write. As a facilitator of the group, I will be very specific about the kind of feedback the class can offer, and as a participant, you will state the type of feedback you want.

The overall goal is to encourage people to write poetry to share with one another, and if desired, to revise and to improve their work. With that in mind, all participants should follow these guidelines to make the group a success:

GROUP GUIDELINES:

1. You can post one poem per week for everyone in the group to read. You can write in response to a prompt, but that is not required.
2. Please state at the beginning of your post which feedback you want. Choose from these three:
 - a. **NO FEEDBACK**
This means you only want people to read the poem and not respond.
 - b. **POSITIVE ONLY FEEDBACK**
You want people to offer only positive comments about your poem.
 - c. **REVISION FEEDBACK**
You want people to offer BOTH a positive comment and a comment about something specific that could be revised.

3. You are not required to respond to any of the poems, but if you do, please adhere to the above types of feedback.

One other note about feedback: We can't assume that the poem is specifically about the poet. For 1st person poems especially, just be aware the poem may not be about the poet.

Any teen or adult can participate in this group from anywhere in the world. It will be in English. Poems should be appropriate for all ages. This does not mean they have to be written for any age audience, just that profanity, pornographic imagery, obscenity, etc. are not allowed.

POSTING GUIDELINES: Here is the form to use in your posts:

1. Use this email address: poemrumping@googlegroups.com
2. In the subject line put the title of your poem and your first name
3. As the first item in your email, list which of the 3 types of feedback you want. Simply write one of the following:

No Feedback

Positive Only Feedback

Revision Feedback

4. Skip a space and now cut and paste your poem into the email. Please don't send attachments. Just put the poem into the email itself.
5. Send!

REPLYING GUIDELINES: When you reply to someone's post, please follow the guidelines for the type of feedback the person wants. Also, identify yourself at the end of your comments. When you reply to a post, your reply goes to everyone in the group.

YOUR RIGHTS: The only people in this group are those that sign up for it. Your poems are always your property. The museum will not use them or refer to them outside of this forum, nor will the museum benefit from them. If you have hesitations about sharing your poetry in a group with other people, this may not be the forum for you.

ABOUT GOOGLE GROUPS: This is a Google platform, but you do not have to have a gmail address to participate. However, if you don't have gmail, you might have to accept an invitation to join the group, rather than be automatically added by me. Be on the lookout for that email as these invitation emails often end up in the Spam box.

As a member of the group, you can choose how to receive the emails from the group: each email sent to your inbox or emails sent in a group to your inbox or you can choose to read the emails online rather than receive them as emails.

You can modify your membership settings at any time by going to

Groups.google.com

Click on My Groups and then Membership Settings.

You can unsubscribe from the group at any time by clicking on the Unsubscribe option at the bottom of any email from the group.

LASTLY, feel free to send an email to me personally at rompoetry@gmail.com if you have questions, comments or concerns. I don't have an ending date for this group—we'll see how it goes!

Let's write some poetry and have some fun!

Shaun Perkins
ROMPoetry.com
POEMLIFE.com