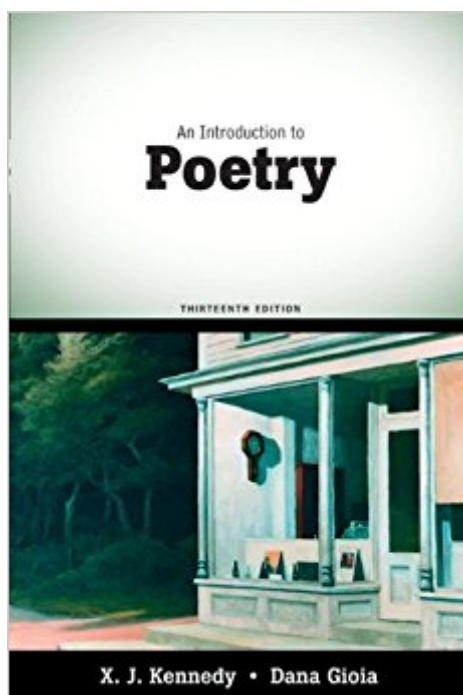


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An Introduction To Poetry (13th Edition)



Kennedy/Gioia's *An Introduction to Poetry*, 13th edition continues to inspire students with a rich collection of poems and engaging insights on reading, analyzing, and writing about poetry. The authors of this bestselling book are the recipients of many prestigious poetry awards. Features new to this edition include:

- Exclusive conversation between Dana Gioia and U.S. Poet Laureate Kay Ryan, offer students an insider's look into the importance of literature and reading in the life of this poet.
- More than 50 new selections "from a wonderful range of poets including Kevin Young, Bettie Sellers, Mary Oliver, David Lehman, Constantine Cavafy, Rainer Maria Rilke, Anne Stevenson, James Weldon Johnson, Alice Fulton, Jimmy Baca, Rita Dove, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Lorine Niedecker, among others.
- New 2009 MLA guidelines "provides students the updated source citation guidelines from the new 7th edition of the *MLA Handbook* and incorporates these in all sample student papers.

Book Information

Best Sellers Rank: #63,606 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Poetry #75 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > European > British & Irish #108 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > English Literature

Maybe I shouldn't have even used the term "textbook". After all that word generally connotes a book that is tedious, dry and full of obscure jargon. This is a different book, however. It is indeed a sprightly introduction to poetry that informs and entertains. It has sections on Irony, Tone, Words, Metaphors, Sound, Rhythm, Form, Symbol, Myth, and Narrative, just to mention a few. The discussion of each topic is illustrated by the provision of relevant poems. The poems are generally

analyzed, and the reader is asked pertinent questions about them. I can't praise the authors enough for their choice of poems. Most are relatively brief works, but they are excellent examples of the topic at hand. What could be a better poem exemplifying Irony than this little classic deploring child labor written by Sarah N. Cleghorn in 1917: The golf links lie so near the mill/ That almost every day/ The laboring children can look out/ And see the men at play. There are many other goodies in this book: 1. A chapter that provides poems and brief critical essays on the works of Langston Hughes, and Emily Dickinson. 2. A section that provides brief but informative biographies of many of the poets represented in the book. 3. A large chapter of more poems for reading and enjoying. These are very accomplished poems that are generally very accessible to the general reader. 4. A section on literary criticism. Yes, I know that is a dreaded term, but the authors do a good job of clearly presenting the material -even when deconstructionism is the topic- and provide brief extracts from noted literary critics. 5. At the end of the book is a convenient glossary of literary terms. 6. For those who become enthused about writing poetry there is a chapter covering this topic.

An Introduction to Poetry (13th Edition) has everything you would expect from a book of its type. It is designed to be a survey of poetry and not only is there an excellent assortment of poetry, but also a very comprehensive series of critical essays and practical how-to articles. I am not an expert on the subject, but after reading through this book I could not imagine an era or subject related to poetry that was not represented with outstanding examples. My only problem with this book was the price, which is outrageous. As it was a required purchase for a class, I had no choice but to buy this specific edition. I would have purchased this book on my own at a "normal" book price, but if I wasn't required to purchase it I never would have even touched it at the retail price. A significant part of the poetry is in public domain and much of the material has been previously published. While the book is well organized and comprehensive, there are no radical insights or specialized information unique to it that warrants the increased price. Neither is the book beautifully designed and manufactured. In fact, it is sort of printed on the cheap side; a smallish trade paperback with thin pages. Certainly nothing in the production or content warrants the unreasonable price. I'm not counting it against this book in my review because this is an issue for all types of academic textbooks which has already been well documented. It's sad that the price makes this collection so inaccessible to many readers, other than students who are required to purchase it. The content of this book is so well organized and the material so well chosen that at a reasonable price this would be an excellent entry point for anybody wishing to expand their world with poetry.

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