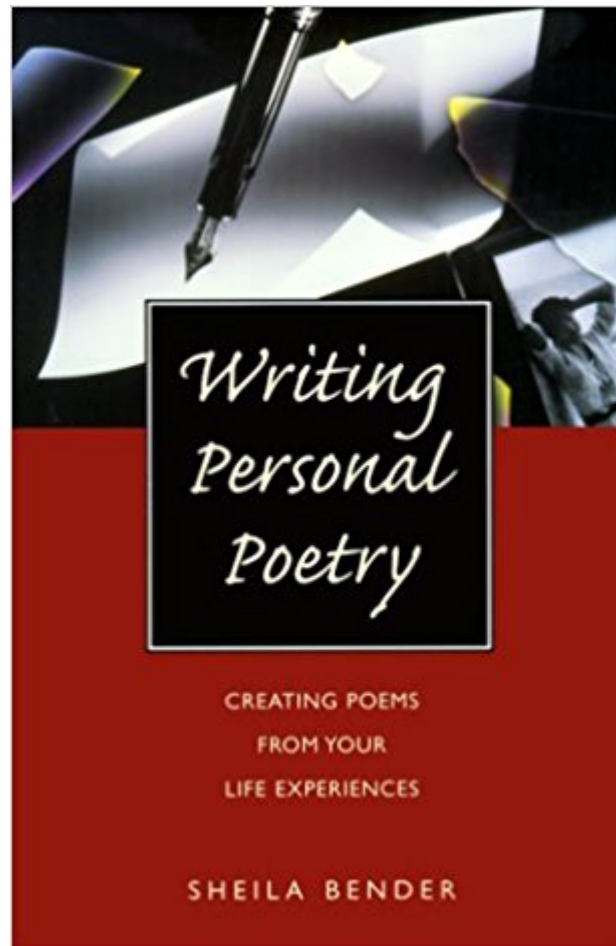




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Writing Personal Poetry



Synopsis

Encouraging readers to write everything from dream journals and postcards to lists and clustered phrases, Sheila Bender gently teaches readers how to use words that show instead of tell, whilst avoiding general words that categorise.'

Book Information

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: Writer's Digest Books; First Edition edition (March 1999)

Language: English

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Customer Reviews

Sheila Bender's style is down-to-earth, informative and clear, and is making a world of difference to my poetry. If you want to write personal poetry, this book is a necessity.

Although I'm actually a fan of form poetry and formal styles, Bender's book brought me to a place where I could write just from my own experiences. Which I previously thought too ordinary for poetry. Bender walks you through steps including even WHY to write personal poetry and how to give yourself the nudge to go ahead and write. She talks about what makes good poetry (and it isn't the going on and on about your personal grievances or sappy love stuff!). She discusses my favorite topic - using mentor texts to inspire your own writing (reading poetry to help you write poetry!). And uses good sense when it comes to discussing author's craft - including not generalizing, not using elevated speech (purple prose that I hate so much!), not simply categorizing or summarizing a feeling as if you're writing a news article. LOVE her discussion of being specific and using the five senses to bring the reader into the NOW. Best of all, she has several times throughout the book where she shows an example poem "progressing" through several drafts, so you get to see the

poem take shape and become more specific, more personal. Bender's book is also actually FUN to read because the writing style isn't heavy or technical in nature. I really enjoyed reading her advice, tips, examples and sample poems from herself, well-known poets, and students of hers! A book worth getting if you're new to poetry, or looking to rejuvenate yourself!

Writing Personal Poetry is a journey into self-discovery. Written by Sheila Bender, the book explores how you can create poems based on your life experiences. A successful poet herself, she begins with a look at why we write, followed by steps for empowerment. One of the most insightful chapters, "Practice With Tools For Poetry Writing" provides exercises as well as useful suggestions. Unlike many instructional writing books, Writing personal Poetry is clear and easy to read. It contains many specific examples to illustrate the author's lessons. A companionable volume, it invites highlighting and underlining for use as a reference for many years.

I found this book very useful to help get the creative juices flowing. The exercises provided by Ms. Bender produced the inspiration needed by beginning poets (like myself).

I have a copy and ordered this one for a friend.

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