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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.