



The Poesia of

Songs Unsung

A Taste of the Poet
No Know It

Warren Watson

2025

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8.4 Clouds (Ode to Mom)

By Warren Thorpe Watson
December 25, 2024

You sadly come between me and the sun.
You lower my mood and decrease my fun.

You guilefully change your name on the ground.
When above you, a clear grand day is found.

The Kootenay Sea exists down below.
Wisps of cloud slowly wash up on the snow.

Blue birds play in the surf on a nice day.
In a cloud, the mood has lost its own way.

Darkness is here now sadly you have fled.
You gave me life and a roof o'er my head.

Noblest profession makes a house a home.
Now above the clouds may you freely roam.

You fought clouds lowering your frame of mind.
Memory of your smile makes the sun shine.

Happy in the thought you walk with Jesus.
Who patiently waits for most all of us.

This is poem 8.4, called Clouds (Ode to Mom), on top of a picture of Old Glory from the top of Grey Mountain of Red Mountain Resort¹ near Rossland and Trail, BC. Old Glory is the highest peak of the Rossland Range at 2,376 metres (7,795 feet²). The clouds below are called the Kootenay Sea. In winter, Trail is often shrouded in cloud, but residents can get Vitamin D on their skies.

The cover photograph is taken by the author December 27, 2003 on the beach between Hotel Camping Lauramar and Frank's Place at Mal Pais on the Nicoya Peninsula, Costa Rica.

¹ Red Mountain Resort, Retrieved June 28, 2025 from <https://www.redresort.com/>

² The Rossland Range, Wikipedia, Retrieved June 28, 2025 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rossland_Range

Dedication

I dedicate this book to family, friends and psychiatric professionals without whose help, support and encouragement, I could possibly be a homeless person with schizoaffective disorder. Becoming my fictitious street person, William Robert, without family, in my book *The Nuun Runner*³, is a real fear.

My parents are also responsible for instilling a love of literature and the written word in me at an early age.

³ Watson, Warren & ~~Allen~~ Albie Fine, The Nuun Runner: Will the Running Ever End? (A Conservative Manifesto) ©2025, Retrieved June 28, 2025 from <https://watsongallery.ca/MyBackPages/NuunRunner/Nuun.htm>

Preface

This is a book of amateur poetry. Is the author being hard on himself? No. He is factual. He has written poetry and has not been paid for it. However, all good poetry has one thing in common. He does not understand it. Unfortunately, he understands all his own poems in this book, however, it was not so unfortunate that he had fun creating them. Is he a poetaster? Perhaps, but a public viewing on Kindle gives completion to his pieces of art.

Leonardo da Vinci noted that people will travel hundreds of miles to see a painting but not to read a poem. He, of course, may have had a bias created by fondness to painting. He also maintained that the beauty of music ends with the last note, but a painting lives on⁴. In that way, a poem also lives on. It paints a picture in words and ideally leaves the reader with the same emotions that inspired the poem to be written.

The author calls himself a nature lover and travel enthusiast, but he has been an engineer and a journalist. He has a passion for painting, enjoys music and plays the game of bridge. His love for poetry comes from literature, but music is essentially poetry in disguise. Is poetry the most efficient way to convey thought or emotion? Will bridge books and newscasts be done in poetry? Probably not, but poetry, like music, is a joy to make and a joy to discover.

Nature and travel are common themes to his poems. The coolest discovery of the author's travels was people begging for money by selling poetry in the park around Cerro Santa Lucia in Santiago, Chile. The author wrote about this in his travel book called *Papers in the Wastebasket*⁵. Will the author get musicians to admit they are poets and beggars in Canada to hand out poetry? That is not his concern. What he wants the most is to portray his love of nature and travel in the trifecta, painting, verse and prose. The enjoyment of reviewing his work will not be complete until it has inspired others to say, "I can do that."

⁴ Hartt, Frederick, *Art: A History of Painting, Sculpture, Architecture, Volume Two*, Fourth Edition, New York, New York: Harry N. Abrams Inc and Prentice Hall Inc, 1993, page 667.

⁵ *Papers in the Wastebasket*, Retrieved June 28, 2025 from <https://watsongallery.ca/MyBackPages/PapersWastebasket/PapersWastebasket.htm>

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1. An Introduction to Poetry

1.1 What is Poetry?

The best starting place is to read how actual poets define poetry. Most of these came from a YouTube video of Dana Gioia⁶. Gioia (1950–), a graduate of the Stanford Business School, is a former vice president of General Foods. He became a full-time writer in 1992 and has a MA in comparative literature from Harvard. In 2015, he received the distinction of Poet Laureate of California⁷. Gioia calls poetry an ancient art form, a subset of language, with the goals of communication, memorization, instruction and pleasure. It is also magical, transformative and civilising and defines humanity.

Dana Gioia (1950–): “A special way of speaking (writing) that invites and rewards a special way of hearing (reading)”

Robert Frost, the peaceful Vermonter⁸, (1874–1963⁹): “A way of remembering what it would impoverish us to forget.”

Dante Alighieri (Firenze, 1265–1321, Ravenna¹⁰): “Things that are true expressed in words that are beautiful.”

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834¹¹): “The best words in the best order while prose is simply words in the best order¹².”

⁶ Gioia, Dana, What is Poetry? 10 observations about the art - (Dana Gioia), YouTube, Premiered March 6, 2021, Retrieved June 19, 2025 from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R6m5vKvc_w

⁷ Dana Gioia, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/dana-gioia>

⁸ Walter Kirn Provides Update on Luigi Mangione Case and the Strange Parallels to Lee Harvey Oswald, The Tucker Carlson Show, Premiered July 14, 2025, 115 minutes, Retrieved July 14, 2025 from <https://tuckercarlson.com/tucker-show-walter-kirn> [01:26:45]

⁹ Robert Frost, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/robert-frost>

¹⁰ Quinones, Ricardo J, "Dante" Encyclopedia Britannica, February 15, 2025, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Dante-Alighieri>

¹¹ Samuel Taylor Coleridge, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/samuel-taylor-coleridge>

¹² Good Reads, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/537027-prose-words-in-their-best-order-poetry-the-best-words>

Thomas Hardy (1840–1928¹³): “Emotion put into measure.”

Wystan Hugh Auden (1907–1973¹⁴): “A clear expression of mixed feelings.”

Octavio Paz (1914–1998¹⁵): “A song which is neither discourse nor explanation.”

Elizabeth Bishop (1911–1975¹⁶): “Hundreds of things coming together at the right moment.”

Gwendolyn Brooks (1917–2000¹⁷): “The distillation of experience.”

Jose Garcia-Villa (1908–1997¹⁸): “An angel with a gun in its hand.”

Emily Dickinson (1830–1886¹⁹): “If I feel physically as if the top of my head were taken off, I know that is poetry²⁰.”

Alexander Pope (1688–1744²¹): “True wit is Nature to advantage dress'd, / What oft was thought, but ne'er so well express'd²².” Poetry is a new and good way to express old thoughts.

¹³ Millgate, Michael. "Thomas Hardy". Encyclopedia Britannica, May 29, 2025, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Thomas-Hardy>

¹⁴ Wystan Hugh Auden, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/w-h-auden>

¹⁵ Octavio Paz (Mexican writer and poet), The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/octavio-paz>

¹⁶ Elizabeth Bishop, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/elizabeth-bishop>

¹⁷ Gwendolyn Brooks, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/gwendolyn-brooks>

¹⁸ Jose Garcia-Villa, Filipino poet, Poets.org, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://poets.org/poet/jose-garcia-villa>

¹⁹ Emily Dickinson, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/emily-dickinson>

²⁰ Gioia, Dana, What is Poetry? 10 observations about the art - (Dana Gioia), YouTube, Premiered March 6, 2021, Retrieved June 19, 2025 from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6R6m5vKvc_w The definitions of poetry from eleven different poets including Dana Gioia himself come from this video.

²¹ Alexander Pope, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/alexander-pope>

²² Pope, Alexander, Essay on Criticism, Anonymously Published, 1711.

Thomas Stearns (T.S.) Eliot (1888–1965): In contrast to the excesses of Romanticism, poetry is an escape from emotion and personality²³.

William Wordsworth (1770–1850²⁴): “Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotion recollected in tranquility²⁵.”

Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822²⁶): “Poetry lifts the veil from the hidden beauty of the world, and makes familiar objects be as if they were not familiar²⁷.”

William Blake (1757–1827): “Poetry should both delight and instruct²⁸.” From the Google AI Overview, “William Blake defined poetry as a means to restore primal vision and awaken the heart, aiming to reveal a world of infinite possibilities and spiritual truths.” AI determined this from his works and associated commentary.

Lord Byron or George Gordon (1788–1824²⁹): “Whether dealing with love or poetry, he cuts through to the heart of the matter with admirable incisiveness, and his apt and amusing turns of phrase make even his business letters fascinating³⁰.” Lord Byron was the prototypical Byronic hero who is “charismatic, courageous, and intelligent yet brooding (moody), conflicted, and arrogant³¹.”

²³ Eliot, Thomas Stearns (TS), 1888-1965, *Tradition and the Individual Talent*, Essay on Poetic Theory, Published: October 12, 2009 by the Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/69400/tradition-and-the-individual-talent>

²⁴ William Wordsworth, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.laits.utexas.edu/doherty/romantics.html>

²⁵ Good Reads, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from

https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/64845.William_Wordsworth This quote originally comes from the preface of the *Lyrical Ballads*.

²⁶ Percy Bysshe Shelley, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/percy-bysshe-shelley>

²⁷ Percy Bysshe Shelley, A Defence of Poetry and Other Essays, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/9424875-poetry-lifts-the-veil-from-the-hidden-beauty-of-the>

²⁸ William Blake, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/william-blake>

²⁹ Lord Byron (George Gordon), The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/lord-byron>

³⁰ Marchand, Leslie A. "Lord Byron". Encyclopedia Britannica, June 7, 2025, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lord-Byron-poet>

³¹ Roy, Gitanjali. "Mr. Rochester". Encyclopedia Britannica, March 28, 2025, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Mr-Rochester>

John Keats (1795–1821³²): “Poetry should surprise by a fine excess and not by singularity (mere novelty³³). It should strike the reader as a wording of his own highest thoughts, and appear almost a remembrance (feeling familiar³⁴). Second, its touches of beauty should never be half way thereby making the reader breathless instead of content ... That if poetry comes not as naturally as the leaves to a tree it had better not come at all³⁵.”

Warren Watson (1964–): Poetry is flowery wording which shows a love and a deep respect of the language. It is the opposite of cursing. Nobody ever told anybody off with a rhyme, at least not since Shakespeare, but someone should.

³² John Keats, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/john-keats>

³³ John Keats’ Poetic Philosophy, by T Das, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://philarchive.org/archive/DASEOR>

³⁴ John Keats’ Poetic Philosophy, by T Das, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://philarchive.org/archive/DASEOR>

³⁵ Essay on Poetic Theory, Selections from Keats’s Letters, by John Keats, The Poetry Foundation, Published: October 12, 2009, [On Axioms and the Surprise of Poetry: Letter to John Taylor, 27 February 1818] Retrieved June 20, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/69384/selections-from-keatss-letters>

1.2 Do Not Be Prosaic with the Word Mosaic

Writing is either verse (poetry) or prose, and poetry is not prosaic. The definition of prosaic by Merriam Webster gives insight to poetry. Prosaic is “dull, unimaginative, factual, every day and ordinary³⁶.” Cambridge dictionary defines prosaic as “without interest, imagination, and excitement³⁷.”

The simplest way to make a poem is to have rhyme and equal meter (number of syllables). This is perfect for an engineer who says, “You mean all I have to do is to count the syllables per line and make the last syllable rhyme?”

However, not all poems have that. They may not rhyme and may have free meter. An engineer, would exclaim, “That makes it even easier, but how do I know what is written is poetry?” Perhaps it sounds pleasant, but it is not prosaic. The simplest answer is that poems even with free verse will look like a poem with lines, not paragraphs.

According to Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Prose is words in their best order and poetry is the best words in their best order³⁸.

A poem written in blank verse means the metered lines do not rhyme and often are iambic pentameter³⁹. Iambic pentameter is ten syllables or five iambs consisting of an unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable⁴⁰. Free verse has no fixed meter and there is no rhyme. A sonnet is fourteen lines of iambic pentameter⁴¹ and heroic couplets are couplets of rhyming lines also in iambic pentameter⁴².

³⁶ Prosaic Definition, Merriam-Webster, Retrieved October 29, 2024 from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prosaic>

³⁷ Prosaic Definition, Cambridge Dictionary, Retrieved October 29, 2024 from <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/prosaic>

³⁸ Coleridge, Henry Nelson, Table Talk (Specimens of the Table Talk of the Late Samuel Taylor Coleridge), 1835. Retrieved October 29, 2024 from <https://www.thisdayinquotes.com/2020/07/prose-words-in-their-best-order-poetry-the-best-words-in-the-best-order/>

³⁹ Gottlieb, Evan, Oregon State University Professor of British Literature, What is Blank Verse? September 21, 2020, Retrieved October 29, 2024 from <https://liberalarts.oregonstate.edu/wlf/what-blank-verse#:~:text=%E2%80%9CBBlank%20verse%E2%80%9D%20is%20a%20literary,lines%2C%20almost%20always%20iambic%20pentameter.>

⁴⁰ Costa, Daniel. "Iambic pentameter". Encyclopedia Britannica, 2 May. 2024, Retrieved October 29, 2024 from <https://www.britannica.com/art/iambic-pentameter>.

⁴¹ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Sonnet". Encyclopedia Britannica, October 26, 2024, Retrieved October 29, 2024 from <https://www.britannica.com/art/sonnet>.

⁴² Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Heroic couplet". Encyclopedia Britannica, February 4, 2020, Retrieved October 29, 2024 from <https://www.britannica.com/art/heroic-couplet>.

A poem may contain similes and metaphors⁴³. A simile is the comparison of two things using “as” or “like.” Metaphor is also a comparison but it is a transfer or replacement of words. Something is something else⁴⁴.

Alexander Pope said that he could write the most efficiently in poetry. His writing skill really may make that true, but are newspaper articles written in prose or poetry?

William Wordsworth had a good definition of poetry as emotions recollected in tranquility. He relives a momentous or emotional experience after he has had time to reflect on it. If the poem is effective, the reader will experience the same emotions simply by reading the poem.

Jane Austen had an interesting take on poetry expressed through Elizabeth Bennett in *Pride and Prejudice*.

Mrs. Bennett, “...However, he wrote some verses on her, and very pretty they were.”

“And so ended his affection,” said Elizabeth impatiently. “There has been many a one, I fancy, overcome in the same way. I wonder who first discovered the efficacy of poetry in driving away love!”

“I have been used to consider poetry as the food of love,” said Darcy.

“Of a fine, stout, healthy love it may. Everything nourishes what is strong already. But if it be only a slight, thin sort of inclination, I am convinced that one good sonnet will starve it entirely away.”

⁴³ Singer, Marilyn, What Makes a Good Poem, Retrieved October 29, 2024 from <https://marilysinger.net/what-makes-a-good-poem/#:~:text=Strong%2C%20accurate%2C%20interesting%20words%2C,that%20lie%20between%20the%20line>

⁴⁴ Simile, Merriam-Webster Dictionary, Retrieved October 29, 2024 from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/simile>

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice* (p. 51). Pomodoro Books. Kindle Edition. First published in January, 1813 by T. Egerton⁴⁵.

⁴⁵ *Pride and Prejudice* First Edition, Jane Austen's House, Retrieved December 9, 2024 from <https://janeaustens.house/object/pride-and-prejudice-first-edition/#:~:text=Description%3A%20First%20edition%20of%20Pride,Egerton>.

1.3 Google it but do not Bugle it

The nerve of googling “What are the best poems?” Google could come back with the response, “Are you crazy? How can I tell that?”

One should google, “What poems I should not miss reading?” The results should be similar.

When it comes to art, lists are fantastic. For the author, lists started with music giving the top songs or the top guitarists. Does he stop listening to music not on the list or does he get mad when his likes are not there? Of course not. He would be amazed that somebody’s artistic preferences were the same as his. In addition, there could be unethical financial considerations he wishes were not possible.

However, lists are important because they show new artists (to him) he should try. Sure, he would certainly expect a high level of expertise, but after that it is just personal preference. Because of KISW’s (The Rock of Seattle) top 1000, he discovered Lynyrd Skynyrd.

At the time (in the early 80s), he saw “Stairway to Heaven” as number one. Having sung the song over and over again at Led Zeppelin and Rum parties, he could understand why. But what was this song in the number two slot called “Free Bird?” He asked a friend who said, “Yeah Skynyrd!” and then played it for him. He loved it right away.

That was not the case for some of his other favourites. His first reaction to DIRE sTRAITS’ “Sultans of Swing” was not even that good. His first thought was, “He is just talking.” It did not take long to love the song and DIRE sTRAITS became a top five band of his.

The author’s current top five list is: Heart, Pink Floyd, Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, DIRE sTRAITS and the Eagles. Yes, there are six bands, but if the Group of Seven can have eleven artists, his top five musical groups can have six. The Who has been replaced by Heart over the years. The Who is seventh. The scream and the slide of “Won’t Get Fooled Again” are fantastic.

“Free Bird” is not forgotten. Not only did he love the piano work, he loved the guitar and lyrics. All he could think was, “What else have I been missing?” Does he care what are currently the top two songs? Of course not, but it expanded his musical appreciation.

1.4 British Poets

Googling noteworthy British poets and using Mo Elinzano's list⁴⁶ and Ranker⁴⁷ get the following.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

William Blake

Robert Browning

Robert Burns

Lord Byron (George Gordon)

Lewis Carroll

Geoffrey Chaucer

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

John Donne

Thomas Hardy

Gerard Manley Hopkins

John Keats

Rudyard Kipling

D.H. Lawrence

⁴⁶ Elinzano, Mo, The 34 greatest poets of all time, Published: March 20, 2015, 12:00 a.m. MDT, Retrieved June 25, 2025 from <https://www.deseret.com/2015/3/20/20479016/poets-famous-quotes-birthplace-writers-edgar-allen-poe-maya-angelou-emily-dickinson/>

⁴⁷ The Greatest Poets of All Time, Ranker Books, Updated May 15, 2025, Retrieved June 25, 2025 from <https://www.ranker.com/list/best-poets/ranker-books>

Christopher Marlowe

John Milton

Alexander Pope

Christina Rossetti

Sir Walter Scott

William Shakespeare

Percy Bysshe Shelley

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Dylan Thomas

Oscar Wilde

William Wordsworth

W.B. Yeats

1.5 American Poets

Googling noteworthy American poets and using Mo Elinzano's list⁴⁸ and Ranker⁴⁹ get the following.

Maya Angelou (1928–2014)

W. H. Auden

Gwendolyn Brooks (1917–2000)

Charles Bukowski

E. E. Cummings (1894–1962)

Emily Dickinson (1830–1886) Hope is the Thing with Feathers

T. S. Eliot (1888–1965)

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882)

Robert Frost (1874–1963) The Road Not Taken, not the Road less travelled.

Langston Hughes (1901–1967)

Jack London (1876–1916⁵⁰) wrote the poem “Daybreak⁵¹.” He is famous for the novel, *the Call of the Wild* and the short story *To Build a Fire*. He also wrote a dystopian novel called the *Iron Heel* which has a poem inside of it. It starts:

“Joy upon joy and gain upon gain
Are the destined rights of my birth,
And I shout the praise of my endless days

⁴⁸ Elinzano, Mo, The 34 greatest poets of all time, Published: March 20, 2015, 12:00 a.m. MDT, Retrieved June 25, 2025 from <https://www.deseret.com/2015/3/20/20479016/poets-famous-quotes-birthplace-writers-edgar-allen-poe-maya-angelou-emily-dickinson/>

⁴⁹ The Greatest Poets of All Time, Ranker Books, Updated May 15, 2025, Retrieved June 25, 2025 from <https://www.ranker.com/list/best-poets/ranker-books>

⁵⁰ Jack London, Wikipedia, Retrieved June 21, 2025 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_London

⁵¹ Daybreak by Jack London, Retrieved June 21, 2025 from <https://spillwords.com/daybreak/>

To the echoing edge of the earth⁵².”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882)

Sylvia Plath (1932–1963)

Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849) The Raven

Ezra Pound (1885–1972)

Carl Sandburg (1878–1967)

Shel Silverstein

Gertrude Stein (1874–1946)

Wallace Stevens

Mark Twain

Walt Whitman (1819–1892) The father of American poetry⁵³ O Captain! My Captain!⁵⁴

⁵² London, Jack, Poem from *The Iron Heel*, Retrieved June 21, 2025 from <https://www.artofmanliness.com/poem-iron-heel-jack-london/>

⁵³ Walt Whitman, Wikipedia, Retrieved June 21, 2025 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Walt_Whitman

⁵⁴ O Captain! My Captain! The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 21, 2025 from <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45474/o-captain-my-captain>

1.6 The Not So Common Wealth of Poets

1.6.1 Canadian Poets

Googling the father of Canadian poetry gives Charles G. D. Roberts (1860–1943⁵⁵). He wrote “Tantramar Revisited,” “The Iceberg,” “The Solitary Woodsman,” and “The Hilltop Song.”

Also noteworthy is Canadian Doctor Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae (1872–1918) who wrote “In Flanders Field” after a World War I battle in Ypres, Belgium. The poem is a “threnody, a genre of lament⁵⁶.”

When it comes to Canadian poetry, Robert W. Service (1874–1958) was called the bard of the Yukon for his poetry about the Yukon and the Gold Rush⁵⁷. The Cremation of Sam McGee is a good read.

Margaret Atwood (1939–) who wrote the Handmaid’s Tale also has poetry to her name. Wikipedia also gives her the distinction of being an inventor because she invented the LongPen. This is an autopen she used for remote book signings⁵⁸.

Leonard Cohen is found on a Google search of Canadian poets. He is a songwriter and a musician. This brings up an interesting question. Why are songs not considered poetry?

Why are more songwriters not listed as poets, like Canadians Gordon Lightfoot, “The Circle is Small,” Neil Young, “Unknown Legend”, Joni Mitchell, “Both Sides Now” and Bryan Adams, “(Everything I Do) I Do It for You.” Leonard Cohen wrote “Bird on a Wire.”

What about Americans, Bob Dylan’s “Girl from the North Country,” Jim Morrison (“The Crystal Ship,” 1967⁵⁹), and Lou Reed (“Romeo had Juliette”)? What about

⁵⁵ Robert W. Service, The Poetry Foundation, Retrieved June 21, 2025 from <https://allpoetry.com/Charles-G.-D.-Roberts>

⁵⁶ John McCrae, Wikipedia, Retrieved May 27, 2025 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_McCrae

⁵⁷ <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/robert-w-service>

⁵⁸ Margaret Eleanor Atwood, Wikipedia, Retrieved June 20, 2025 from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Atwood

⁵⁹ The Doors, The Crystal Ship, Producer Paul A. Rothchild, January 4, 1967, Retrieved June 21, 2025 from <https://genius.com/The-doors-the-crystal-ship-lyrics>

Brits John Lennon (“Imagine”) and Paul McCartney (“A Day in the Life”) from the Beatles⁶⁰? Jamie Atkins also mentions Tupac Shakur, Patti Smith as “a poet sidetracked by music,” Kendrick Lamar, Gil Scott-Heron, and Kate Bush.

⁶⁰ Atkins, Jamie, Musicians Who Are Poets: 12 Game-Changing Lyrical Masters
From awards-laden lyricists to those whose creativity has reached new heights of expression, these musicians could – and should – be considered poets, Published on March 21, 2025, Retrieved June 21, 2025 from <https://www.udiscovermusic.com/stories/musicians-who-are-poets-lyrics/>