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PROVISIONAL PEN MONTHLY

The official e-newsletter of Provisional Pen Writing Services



POETRY IS EVERYTHING!

Spring has sprung, and poetry surrounds us in the form of birdsong and bloom. What else is poetic? Pretty much anything you can imagine.

In this issue, you'll find out how Provisional Pen can encourage you along the way to becoming a published poet, how to move beyond rhyme, and how to create a poetry collection you will be proud to call your own.

Happy Writing!

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LET'S GET POETIC

Though poetry sometimes comes from very personal roots, you don't have to be a poet in isolation. Like any type of writing, poems can benefit from feedback. And, poets can certainly benefit from professional encouragement.

So, just know that our [writing consultation services](#) are for poets, too. Here's how we can help you on your way to publishing your work:

- Discussion of initial ideas/drafts
- Feedback on your drafts
- Inspirational writing prompts
- Online membership as part of your consultation package



[Contact us today to get started!](#)



WRITING TIP OF THE MONTH

AVOID THE RHYME TRAP

There was a period of time when rhyming poems were quite popular. These days? Not so much. In fact, you may find that forcing your ideas to fit a rhyme scheme can severely limit your creative potential. One of our staffers learned the hard way and, after initial resistance to change, was relieved to be liberated from the rhyme trap.

If a poem doesn't have to rhyme, then what makes a piece of writing a poem?

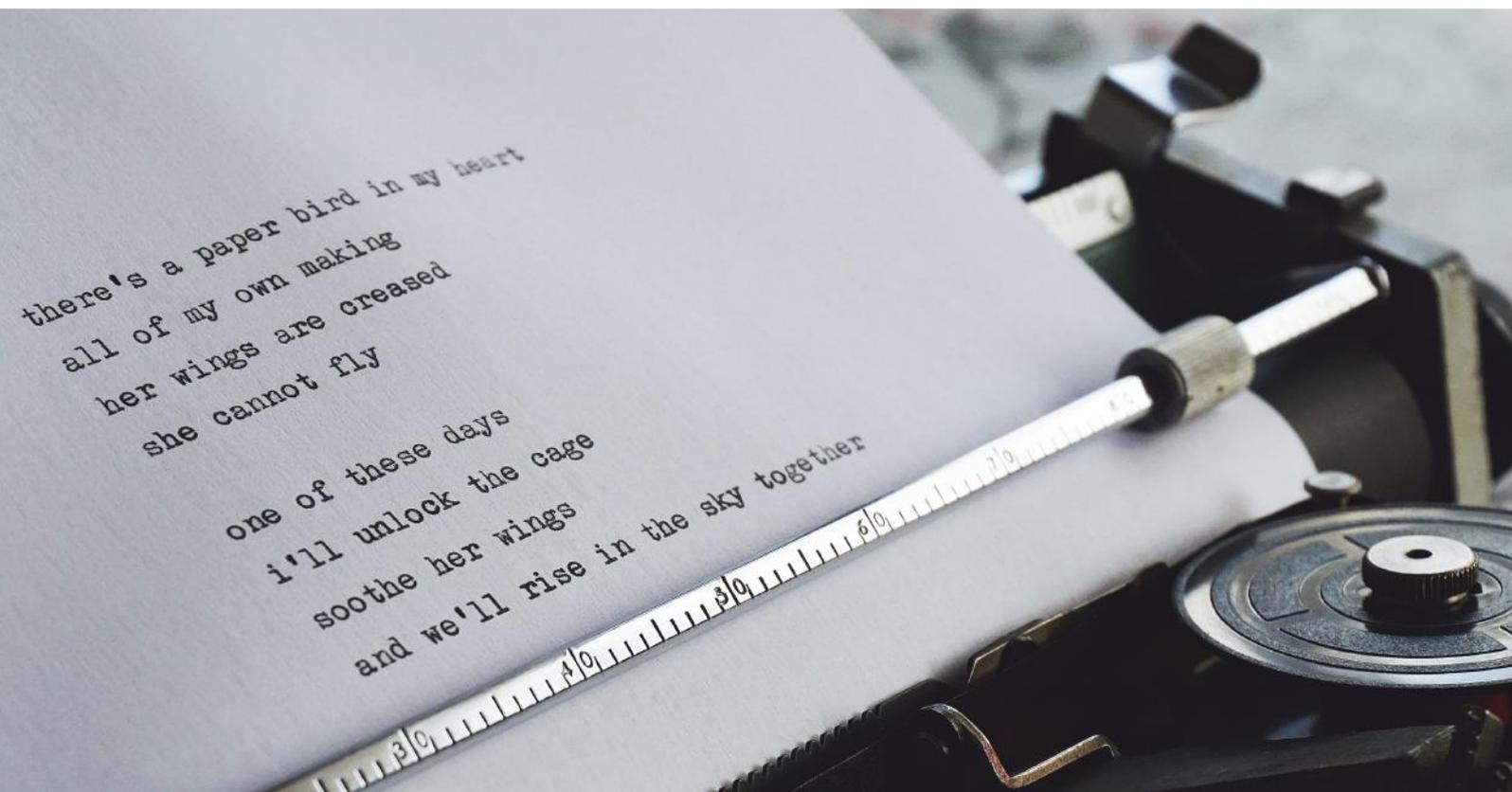
Many elements work together as you write a poem: the arrangement of the words and lines, the images and moments they create for the reader, how the piece sounds when spoken aloud. Just know that poetry can take

many forms; even a list, when composed of these elements, can be a poem.

Should we avoid rhyming if it's not necessary, then?

There's no rule against rhyming. So, if you want to rhyme, go ahead. But, you don't have to diminish great ideas to fit into the tiny boxes that rhyming lines can create. You have lots of options. You might even try some internal rhyme, where you rhyme words within the line. Or, there are always those nearly rhyming words to play around with.

Just remember, whatever you want to do with your poems, that your ideas are the most important element.



there's a paper bird in my heart
all of my own making
her wings are creased
she cannot fly

one of these days
i'll unlock the cage
soothe her wings
and we'll rise in the sky together

MONTHLY WRITING INSPIRATION

CREATE A COLLECTION

While a single poem can certainly hold up in the minds and hearts of readers, a whole collection is a pretty powerful thing. There are a couple ways to go about putting together a cohesive selection of your poetry:

Choose a theme from the start. It can be anything you want. Maybe you want to write poems to document a year of your life, or a special time period (like a much-needed vacation, the pursuit of a degree, or the experience of planning a wedding). Or, maybe the theme is less personal. Either way is totally fine.

Closely evaluate your current work to find an emerging theme. This can be a fun task, kind of like solving a mystery about your own writing. If you find multiple themes, that's great, too. You can always choose one to work with now and save the others for future collections.

Poetry isn't a "one and done" thing if you don't want it to be. Keep playing with words, and most importantly, have fun. Writing poems is a fabulous way to do things with language that just don't quite work in other forms of writing.



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