

SSW Writing Retreat - November 18, 2025

Brought to you by [Betsy Williams](#), [Kristin Bartley Lenz](#), and the SSW Flourish Office, and looking towards the [National Poetry Contest for Social Workers](#).

A few books & websites on writing poetry:

Stephen Dobyns, *Next Word, Better Word: The Craft of Writing Poetry*

Mary Kinzie, *A Poet's Guide to Poetry*

David Kirby, *Writing Poetry: Where Poems Come From and How to Write Them*

James Longenbach, *How Poems Get Made*

Mary Oliver, *A Poetry Handbook*

Kenneth C Steven, *Poet's Handbook: A Guide to Building Great Poems*

Shutta Crum - <https://shutta.com/resources/>

Adam Sol & others - How a Poem Moves - <https://howapoemmoves.wordpress.com/>

Poetry Unbound - <https://onbeing.org/series/poetry-unbound/>

The Poetry Foundation - poetryfoundation.org

A few contemporary poets:

Richard Blanco

Eileen Cleary

Billy Collins

Quintin Collins

Denise Duhamel

Nicole Terez Dutton

Amanda Gorman

Meg Kearney

Peter Meinke

Duane Niatum

Poetry and Social Work / Social Justice

[Poems of Protest, Resistance, and Empowerment](#) - Poetry Foundation

[Poetry's Healing Work](#) - Academy of American Poets

[Social Action & Writing Track](#), Solstice MFA program