



Crafting Revision in Poetry Writing

One Word Changes a Poem

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A clear, craft-focused guide that helps poets experiment with language, sound, and image to create resonant, memorable work.

Crafting Revision in Poetry Writing: One Word Changes a Poem offers a clear, practical, and approachable guide to writing and revising poems. Many students enter a poetry classroom feeling uncertain, imagining poems as mysterious or instinctive rather than crafted. This book shows that poetry is a learnable process built from choices—of image, sound, line, and voice—and that revision is the stage where these choices deepen into meaning.

Through accessible explanations, contemporary examples, and structured exercises, the book teaches students how to move from raw ideas to shaped, thoughtful poems. Each chapter breaks down a key element of poetic craft and demonstrates how it functions within a poem. A signature feature of the book is its revision menu, offering flexible strategies for expanding images, refining lines, heightening sound, and strengthening emotional impact. These techniques help students re-see their drafts and develop confidence in their creative decisions.

Designed for undergraduate courses, writing centers, workshops, and independent study, this book supports both native and multilingual English writers. It brings clarity and encouragement to the writing process, helping emerging poets discover—and trust—their own voices.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Dr. Ryan Thorpe is an endowed associate teaching professor and director of the academic writing program and writing center at Shanghai Jiao Tong University Global College. He is also the executive director of Inkwell and the author of multiple books on creative writing and fiction.

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