



## Top Tips for Writing Poetry from Dr Martin Stephen

1. Write about what you know and have experienced. Sincerity speaks!
2. Ask yourself at the end of every line, 'Do I really need all these words? What are the ones that carry power, and what are the ones that are padding?'
3. Remember you don't have to write in complete sentences in the poetry.
4. Never use a word just because it rhymes, and remember rhythm is as important in poetry as rhyme.
5. Think IMAGES! Images are pictures that tell a story, so are you going to write:

*'I'm sad, lonely and miss my friends'*

**OR are you going to write:**

*'I saw the mongrel dog,*

*Tied up outside the shop.*

*His owner out of sight, inside.*

*The dog ignored the hand*

*I stretched out to him.*

*Looking round it frantically instead,*

*To see his owner was there.*

*Lost, neglected, sad.*

*Just like me'.*

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2019/20 International Competition. Deadline: 20 March 2020.

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