

PREFACE

Many students experience great difficulty in understanding, paraphrasing, and appreciating poetry.

Poetry is usually not difficult to understand, once we grasp the essential characteristics of poetry, its special vocabulary - called poetic diction - and its grammatical peculiarities. Once we do that, we will find it very easy to understand, paraphrase, and appreciate a poem. But sometimes, English poets make allusions to mythological, Biblical, historical, or literary figures, and it is the duty of the teacher to explain to the students such allusions.

Images depend mainly, apart from the poet's imagination, on figures of speech, towards the explanation of which, I dedicated a whole chapter.

Music is usually a matter of versification, which we discussed simply in the last chapter, with a short and simple section on scansion.

In the chapter on history, I tried to give representative poems of the various phases and schools of poetry. These poems are carefully chosen. They are well known poems which I liked and enjoyed, and I hope that you will enjoy them too, and that they will instil in you a love of English poetry.

Language school students need only study the first two, and parts of the third and fourth chapters, but college students are required to study the whole book.

Good luck to you all!

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