

The Actual Work

Genius at first is little more than a great capacity for receiving discipline. – Herr Klesmer—George Eliot

- Make time—allow subconscious to “know” when you’ll be working.

All poetry consists of flashes of the subconscious mind and herculean efforts on the part of the conscious mind to equal them. This is where training comes in. The more expert the poet, the better will he fill in the gaps in his inspiration. Revising is the act of consciously improving what has been unconsciously done. – Amy Lowell, John Keats

- Revision

Poetry is not the expression of personality, but an escape from personality. –T. S. Eliot

- Exercise and fun. Play with technique. Choose a subject, write in iambic tetrameter lines, rhyming six times. Try dactyls, or anapests. Play with patterns.

To generalize is to be an idiot. To particularize is the great distinction of merit. –William Blake

- Reading—imitate a little
- Edit poem ruthlessly.
- The world of imagination is the world of reality. Just occasionally, take something you have written, that you rather like, that you have felt an even immodest pleasure over, and throw it away.